

# Kids Rodeo Saddle Series



# Look Who is Paying For This!

By TomL

Our administration has gone totally Bonkers. at the beginning of the trump Presidency the Veterans were not being taken care of. They were backlogged something terrible. Trump solved it by opening up the regular hospitals to the veterans. Today there is over 300,000 backlog again, because they have the VA at Biden's directive to0 writing checks and sending Immigrant's to the VA hospital's???? What is wrong with this picture? Our Veteran come first and we should not be paying healthcare for people from other countries.

In the past the Senate of Veterans Affairs approved \$79 million for healthcare to treat Illegal Immigrant's. Now the committee approved over \$90 million. Jon Tester is the Chair person for the committee and is

currently running for office. It's time you take care of this with our vote...The president can go to his VA hospital and go right in but our Veterans who fought and survived heavy combat must wait his or her turn after illegals.

There are so many criminals let into our country they are assaulting and killing police officers, while the fat cats in Washington make laws for us to abide by but the laws are not for them. Look at what is going on with the Biden's.

I must put something in this story about old age. Biden's age is not the problem it is his mental capacity to retain information in this time zone. I know plenty of people older than him that have very good thought process and memory. Remember with age comes wisdom, so we have to decide which is more valuable, and which one is present

# Marion County Builder Association



MBCIA Board From left: Denise Alexander, Execute Officer, David Tillman, President MCBIA, Lucinda Striker, Associate VP, Gary Striker, Membership Chair, Trevor Curington, Secretary. Photo taken at the Monthly Business Luncheon. See more photos page 8.

## Kids Rodeo Saddle Series

11025 W Dunnellon RD Crystal River FL 34428

6yr and under; 7-10 yrs; 11-14 yrs; 15-19 yrs

Dates for the next rodeo

March 9, 2024 & April 13, 2024 End of Winter series

This is a kids rodeo sponsored by the Red Level Baptist Church. We have 7 rodeos where kids 7 years to 19 years earn points if they participate in at least 5 rodeos, they will win prizes. We do all around saddles for the 3 older ages, one boy and one girl. First place in each of the three older ages

each event wins a buckle, and all who qualify wins something. The youngest group all receive a buckle and a prize.

A. D. Priest is the president of the Association and also supplies most of the stock for the events as well as does most of the upkeep on the arena. We use volunteers for each rodeo, no one is paid.

Everyone is welcome to come watch this great event as it is free.

The arena is located behind the Red Level Baptist Church at 11025 W Dunnellon Rd Crystal River, FL 34428

Photo by Ken Rohling

when he speaks. Don't write off all of the elderly!!! When Biden starts ad-libbing his brain doesn't ad-lib in the same time zone. He wants people to think he is cool, famous and smart. He is famous! He broke the laws of our country and this memory thing just does not fly with me! Up to now he has hidden the information of him and his son! So you wonder why he is doing what he is doing, his handlers are running the country and when he wonders off from them he blunders & blunders, the handler don't want to loose their power. So now that they have run the country into the ground they can play the "Blame Game," Biden's is it! He deserves it!

Last but not least, the administration is trying to sell that there could be some criminals that will try to attack our Power

grid, our food, our water supply. I think we have a ghost Army in our country to attack when they are told too. I believe in God, Family, Country and I believe in YOU. I hope your keeping your powder dry!

I pray for us!

More Horseback Riding Event pages 6 & 7 photos by CK Johnston...

COMING EVENT March 2 is the Strawberry Festival. Watch for photos by CK Johnston in the April Edition of this newspaper and at TomLPublishing.com

## OCALA EVENTS

**Community Stages Present: Story Walks**  
Walk along the beautifully shaded park trail while enjoying performances by the cast of Community Stage of stories that will delight audiences of all ages! New and familiar stories from around the world including Europe, Africa and Asia will be performed by a troupe of energetic and engaging young artists in a style that draws on the audience's imagination and sense of adventure.

April 13 | 11 AM - 1 PM  
\$5 per group of 5  
Scott Springs | 2825 SW 24th Ave.

### Rec It Fridays | Free

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place

1821 NW 21st Ave.

JAN. - APRIL | FIRST AND LAST FRIDAYS | 5 - 8 PM

Join us for Rec-It Fridays! Each Friday, the Recreation staff will put out fun recreational games and activities for families to enjoy at their leisure.

### After Dark in the Park Movie Series

- Radio - PG

Webb Field | 1501 W Silver Springs Blvd.

Friday, February 16 | 7 PM

- Path of the Panther - PG

Fort King National Historic Landmark | 3925 E Fort King St.

Saturday, March 16 | 7 PM

### Astronomy Night - FREE

Saturday, February 17 | 6 - 9 PM

Ocala Regional Sportsplex | 3500 SW 67 Ave. Rd.

Meet up with some of the Central FL astronomy clubs to stargaze and learn about our night skies! The Director and associates from Gainesville's UF Observatory will bring out telescopes - bring your chairs and blankets!

### Animal Tracks - FREE

Saturday, March 9 | 10 - 11:15 AM

Heritage Nature Conservancy

Join us as we follow different tracks and signs to figure out who they belong to. It's not just footprints that can tell us which animals have been on the trails!

### Save the Panther - FREE

Saturday, March 16 | 6 - 9 PM

Fort King National Historic Landmark | 3925 E Fort King St.

Join us for National Save the Florida Panther Day, where you can hear presentations from our rangers and other experts. We will have crafts for the kids and a dusk trail hike before the showing of the Florida Film Festival winner "Path of a Panther."

### Nocturnal Nature - FREE

Saturday, March 23 | 6 - 8:15 PM

Fort King National Historic Landmark | 3925 E Fort King St.

Learn about our secretive neighbors who come out at night. Participants will learn about armadillos, opossums, raccoons, and other critters who may leave clues behind!

### Learn about Pollinators - FREE

Saturday, March 30 | 10 - 11:15 AM

Recharge Park | 2105 NW 21st St

Learn about the important role pollinators play in the ecosystem. You will also get to make a flower bookmark to take home.

Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

## Big news: There's a 5-star Medicare Advantage plan in Lake, Marion, & Sumter Counties



### Easily switch to a top-rated plan

We're proud to offer you our Humana Gold Plus H1036-146 (HMO) plan, which earned 5 out of 5 stars—the highest quality rating—from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. It's available for a premium of \$0.

And from Dec. 8 until the end of the following November, you could switch to this plan during a special enrollment period. More stars in a plan's rating indicates higher quality and performance. Better care begins with listening to the people we serve, and our Star Rating reflects our commitment to doing just that.

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Kevin Sheilley

## OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



One of the best and most significant measures of the strength of the local economy is the housing market. 2023 was a record-year on several fronts. It marked the highest ever

Cities for Growth. This is significant because it highlights the strong growth of younger residents to the community and reinforces the growth in both traditional single-family and multi-family developments. Further attesting to this growth is the record enrollment at Marion County Public Schools which surpassed 45,600 students in the fall of 2023. This reflects a 10% increase in the last two years.

Primary employment growth and investment continues at a very strong pace. Over the last two years, tracked primary employment capital investment is just short of \$1 billion and will result in the creation of more than 2,500 direct jobs. Among the highlights include a \$25 million expansion by a local manufacturer adding 200 jobs, a new 3PL which leased a recently constructed 350,000 sq. ft. spec building, and the headquarters and processing center for a mortgage company creating 300 new jobs. Additionally, the construction on the 1 million sq. ft. expansion at the Dollar Tree distribution center is wrapping up. This \$400 million project will result in the addition of 300 additional jobs. The year ended with

number of new single-family homes completed, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of permits issued. Additionally, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best year on record for the sale of existing homes. The Ocala Metro was one of only 3 Florida metros and one of only a handful nationwide that saw an increase in year-over-year sales of existing homes. Finally, 2023 saw the largest number of new Multi-Family developments to come online with the addition of approximately 2,000 units.

This growth is being fueled by the continuing large number of new residents relocating to the area. The Ocala Metro again ranked in the top 2 in U-Haul's annual Top

several very large projects actively working to wrap up negotiations on potential new facilities in the market.

Healthcare remains a strong and growing pillar of the local economy. HCA Ocala added two new free-standing emergency rooms and announced plans for \$100+ million expansions at both their downtown and West Marion campuses. AdventOcala announced plans for a new 60,000 addition at their main campus to break ground in 2024 as well. Work continued at the new UF Health Ocala Hospital with the first phase to open in summer 2024.

Finally, the resurgence of tourism as an economic driver has continued with the World Equestrian Center beginning and/or continuing construction on their Phase 2 development. The second onsite hotel, a 400 extended stay property, will open at the complex in March 2024 and construction has begun on an 80,000 sq. ft Event Center, 80,000 sq. ft. retail complex, and 6<sup>th</sup> indoor arena. The facility hosted approximately 3 million guests in the last year. WEC along with FAST (Florida Aquatic Swimming & Training) are driving a significant increase in tourism with local tourism development tax revenues setting a record for the 3rd year in row with three consecutive years of double-digit increases. As a result, nearly a dozen additional hotels are currently in the development pipeline.

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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



By TomL  
I attended a Marion County Builders Association lunch meeting. Met some old friends and met some new business associates. Very friendly group of Business people.

Michael Cassidy was charged after destroying a Satanic display statue. Apparently he is charged with a class D felony for destroying the display at the Iowa State capital building. He is accused of beheading the Statue on the display and throwing into the garbage can. The veteran of the navy apparently did this just before Christmas. How many people out there think Michael should be prosecuted??? NOT ME! [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

I was reading a comprehensive informational story the DA Fani Willis who is prosecuting Donald Trump. The story list

all the people who donated to her election that have made money from the Fulton County District Attorney's office.

Now Willis is accused of dating her Prosecuting Attorney and has given the Law Firm he is in partners with donated to her campaign. The story list many people who donated to her campaign have and are right now making money as they have been hired for services for very large amount coming out of the blue collar working people taxes.. I wonder why the same state that Donald Trump had trouble with on election day have broken some many laws or rules. Should this trial be shut down. [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

By the way, has everyone out there seen "Two Thousands Mules"???

If you have not please do. It shows that two thousand people who were hired by persons unknown were monitored by phone positions and by videos at ballot boxes being stuffed. A few were prosecuted and jailed by fingerprints on envelopes of ballots being stuffed. The next day everyone on video

were wearing gloves. What a surprise. Look up the video, "Two Thousand Mules"

The senate veterans affair committee approved \$79 million to pay for migrants healthcare back in 2021. Now they are budgeting \$90 million for migrant healthcare of those who are coming across the border now. What about our veterans that are waiting for care? or their families? Sounds like things are upside down! Let's clean this administration out and put people that are loyal to Americans first!

The United States / the current administration has already spent all the tax money collected and is well into the red, so here is what is happening they are trying to

pass legislation spending more money. Yes Biden wants to just print more or barrow from China. From here on out the current government is operating on money borrowed. Let's borrow money to fight wars in other country's, borrow money to feed & house & provide healthcare to people who broke the law to get into our country. I know Veterans who can't get help to house them and their children. Who is the guy that says Americans first? You don't have to search to far they are trying to put him in jail.

I was listening to a Rane Paul interview and he has been telling us the same things. I have put in this column. He told us about COVID and the money behind it! Now they are using the money allocated for COVID to house the Illegals.

### Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for April*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**  
Noon, March 22nd

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**  
12am, March 27th

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# DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,

It has been yet another great month in the Florida Legislature. I am honored to be able to represent the constituents of District 13 here in Tallahassee. With Session coming to an end, here are a couple of key pieces of legislation that we have had the pleasure of working on.

Firstly, The Florida Senate passed Senate Memorial 598, sponsored by Senator Blaise Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill), with bipartisan support. This memorial urges the federal government to enforce current immigration laws and secure our southern border.

The willful and systemic refusal of the Biden Administration to enforce immigration laws has allowed for a crisis to unfold at our southern border. This crisis impacts every community, not only across the State of Florida, but across the entire country as illegal immigrants overrun our southern border with those associated with drug cartels bringing weapons, fentanyl, and other contraband that devastates families and communities. Further, the influx of illegal immigration has placed a significant financial burden on Florida's taxpayers.

Not only has the Biden administration been an abject failure in enforcing existing border security measures, but Joe Biden has exacerbated the problem by suspending construction of a border wall, increasing the number of illegal immigrants released onto the streets of our country, limiting the authority of our border patrol agents, and utilizing our unique court process to block states from addressing this historical humanitarian crisis. These intentional and disastrous policy decisions have led to a surge in violent crime, gang activity, human trafficking, an ever increasing threat of

terrorism and massive drain on taxpayer dollars and resources. It is well beyond time for the federal government to act and stop the invasion at our southern border.

Secondly, The Senate Appropriations Committee on Education passed Senate Bill 1396, sponsored by Senator Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota), with unanimous support. This legislation establishes a program to provide security funding for Jewish Day Schools.

Senate Bill 1396 builds upon House Bill 7C, passed during the 2023C Special Legislative Session, to enhance security measures at Jewish Day Schools and send a clear message that Florida stands with our Jewish neighbors. House Bill 7C provided \$25 million in funding for Jewish Day Schools to enhance hardening and nonhardening security measures.

Senate Bill 1396 empowers the Florida Department of Education and Jewish Day Schools across the State of Florida through recurring funding that can be used for security cameras, shatter-resistant glass, fencing, security personnel, and other hardening or nonhardening security measures.

Since the barbaric attacks on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, America has seen an exponential increase in vile acts of antisemitism across the country, especially in education. Being a student is a time of growth, learning and a fuel for passions and interests and no student should feel unsafe when they enter the classroom, and the Florida Senate is absolutely dedicated to keeping all students safe.

We can't wait to share more with you as we conclude the 2024 Legislative Session. Thank you for your continued engagement in your government and for investing your energy in helping us continue to protect faith, family, freedom, opportunity, and life.

Onward & Upward,  
Senator Dennis Baxley

# FAIRTAX



How much does government cost? That is a powerful question and the answer is: nobody really knows. The

government has no money of its own. All they have is tax money extracted from the citizens and so many taxes are hidden that no one can say for sure just how much the government costs. Each year we spend money, time and energy to fill out income tax forms to find out how much it costs us individually to keep government running and fulfill our national and international obligations. The Income Tax is so convoluted that most individuals need to spend money on tax preparers or tax software to complete these forms. An entire industry has arisen to help people combat the I.R.S. if they get audited. In my opinion, any law that spawns such an industry to get around it, is a bad law to begin with and should be repealed. However, if you repeal the Income Tax you need to replace it with

something better and that is the FAIRtax.

Under the FAIRtax, individuals know how much they are contributing to the government because it is shown on their receipts. You can choose how much tax you pay by your spending habits. Remember, under the FAIRtax, once an item is taxed once it is not taxable again. "Used" items are not taxed. You are anonymous (just like with the state sales taxes) so there will be no individual audits. In fact, there will be no need for the IRS at all, saving millions of dollars each year in government costs. And as an added bonus, you will be paying for items with pre-taxed dollars as there will be no federal withholding from paychecks under the FAIRtax.

The FAIRtax is fair to all income levels, easy to understand and allows for a transparency that the income tax cannot match. For more information please go to FAIRtax.org and browse our website, listen to our podcasts and watch our videos. Once you understand it, you will demand it!

## Pastrami-Spiced Veal Burgers



(NAPSI)—Whether you're feeding your family or entertaining guests, a delightful way to

keep things cosy yet special during the cold weather season is with a delicious dish such as this one, made with Trusted Veal from Europe.

Pastrami-Spiced Veal Burgers

Yield: 6 servings

### INGREDIENTS

12slices Smoked Gouda, sliced thinly

- 2cups Sauerkraut, rinsed and drained
- ¼cup Mayonnaise
- 1oz Fresh breadcrumbs
- 4 oz Milk
- 2tsp Salt
- 2lbs Ground veal
- 2tsp Black peppercorns
- 2tsp Coriander seeds
- ½tsp Mustard seeds
- 1tsp Sweet paprika
- 1tsp Onion powder
- ½tsp Garlic powder
- 1tsp Brown sugar
- ½cup Whole grain mustard

### INSTRUCTIONS

Place the breadcrumbs, milk, and salt in a bowl and soak the breadcrumbs until softened. Mix the veal with the breadcrumb mixture and combine to form six patties. Toast the peppercorns, coriander, and mustard seeds in a dry pan. Let cool and grind them with the paprika, onion powder, garlic powder, and brown sugar. Coat the burgers with the spice mixture. Heat a grill on medium-high heat. Grill the burgers to desired doneness but at least 71°C (160°F) for food safety, adding a slice or two of cheese to each burger towards the end, to slightly melt. Spread the bottom of the bun with the mayonnaise, and top with whole grain mustard. Place the burger on the bottom, top with sauerkraut, and top with the bun.

As easy to make as they are enjoyable to eat, one reason these burgers are better is that they're made with genuine European veal. Desired for its light color and delicate taste and texture, European veal has long been held in high regard among chefs around the world. What's more, European Union (EU) Legislation means high animal welfare standards are practised and enforced so consumers worldwide can feel confident about Trusted Veal from Europe, considered simply the best in taste and tradition.

Fortunately, a wide selection of high-quality European veal is available throughout Canada. Ask your local retailer for European veal.

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# Florida Horse Park UPSC

Local Pony Clubs test their knowledge and skills of horse riding. Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



# Florida Cutting Horse Association

Agile and quick horses at the FL Cutting Horse Association Show  
Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



Erik Lehane

## THE GAITWAY GROUP



**ACTIVE SENIORS:** Take a Peek into Your Future and Do Something About It"

<https://youtu.be/Eh-TMzjxFHAW> what if you could catch a glimpse into your future without relying on mysticism or fortune-tellers? Surprisingly, you can — it's right in front of you every day, if you're willing to look.

For active seniors who aspire to live their later years on their own terms, enjoying passions and relationships to the fullest, it's crucial to take stock of any warning signs lurking in their lives.

These warning signs, or "red flags," indicate that functional decline may be on the horizon. They're signals that essential abilities for maintaining quality of life and independence are slipping away. As a seasoned physical therapist, I can spot these red flags from a mile away. While they may start subtly, dismissing them as natural effects of aging is a mistake. Left unaddressed, they can quickly lead to falls, loss of independence, reliance on assistive devices, and a host of health issues. Moreover, if illness or injury strikes on top of these red flags, functional loss can escalate dramatically.

Red flags are hidden in plain sight and often manifest in daily activities like standing from a chair, dressing, stairs, getting up off the floor or walking. If you're finding these tasks increasingly challenging or requiring more assistance, you may be in the early stages of a downward spiral.

A straightforward way to test for red flags is what I call "The Elevator Test." The Elevator Test, because of the space and time required. If you're pain-free and have no medical contraindications, I strongly recommend performing The Elevator Test weekly, preferably with a supportive friend

nearby as a backup.

Here's how it works:

1. Find an open area.
2. Slowly lower yourself to the ground and lie on your back.
3. Turn to one side.
4. Turn onto your stomach.
5. Get up on all fours (hands/knees).
6. Stand up.

If you're unable to complete The Elevator Test, it's a clear indicator of red flags in your life.

Early detection is key. If you spot a red flag, address it immediately. Ignoring it will only worsen the issue over time, making it harder to correct.

The solution to a red flag often lies within the problem itself. If you struggle with stairs, practice climbing them more frequently. Use each encounter with stairs as an opportunity to improve, performing a few extra repetitions each time. Apply the same approach to any activity where you've identified a red flag. By doing so, you'll regain mastery over these activities and significantly enhance your future quality of life.

Don't make the mistake of attributing red flags to old age. Aging doesn't mean becoming feeble or losing independence. While we may never recapture our 25-year-old selves, we all have the capacity to improve, regardless of our current baseline. At the very least, we can strive to maintain independence in our daily activities well into our later years.

The future is ours to shape, but we can't afford to wait until tomorrow. The time to act is now. As Eleanor Roosevelt wisely said, "The future is literally in our hands to mold as we like. But we cannot wait until tomorrow. Tomorrow is now."

\*Erik Lehane, a dedicated physical therapist with expertise in preventive care, is the visionary founder behind The Gaitway Group ([thegaitwaygroup.com](http://thegaitwaygroup.com)). Through this venture, he empowers active seniors with the knowledge and tools to "add life to their years." For inquiries, contact Erik at [erik@eriklehane.com](mailto:erik@eriklehane.com).



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**PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER PERMIT FOR SHALOM PARK.**

## CEP Ocala / Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership

MISSION: To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

### INVEST. ENGAGE. GROW.

#### BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

- ATTEND OUR EVENTS**: The CEP conducts over 100 events per year, including networking, educational, forums, and more. *Get engaged!*
- TAKE CREDIBILITY**: Research shows businesses who belong to a Chamber are more successful. *Boost your reputation!*
- IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**: The CEP offers 3 monthly skill building opportunities and multiple workshops each year. *Gain knowledge!*
- INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY**: Listings in our online & printed directory, mailing lists, and advertising opportunities. *We want to see you!*
- SAVE MONEY**: Get discounts on office supplies, shipping, and more. Plus, a lot of services to reduce overhead. *Start saving!*
- MAKE MORE MONEY**: Build your brand. Expand your business. Retain & recommitmentary pay. *Grow your business!*
- CEP BUSINESS SUPPORT**: The CEP is your business partner—assessing, strategizing, and providing 10 types of helpful services. *Attend seminars. Attend seminars.*
- RECRUIT TOP TALENT**: List your job openings with the CEP to reach your next staff member. *Expand your team!*
- EARN AN ADVOCATE**: The CEP is a single, strong, unified voice that advocates passionately for your business. *Gain support!*
- EXPAND YOUR NETWORK**: Join the CEP & add hundreds of professionals to your network. *Get involved!*

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.

**Ready to Move Your Business Forward?**  
Jennifer Madden, Director of Partner Relations  
352.629.8051 [Jennifer@OcalaCEP.com](mailto:Jennifer@OcalaCEP.com)  
Visit us online at [www.OcalaCEP.com](http://www.OcalaCEP.com)





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You can help create great futures by sponsoring a child to attend the Boys & Girls Club of Marion County.  
PO Box 4109  
Ocala, FL 3448  
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www.bgcofmarion.com

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## OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

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



Interested in becoming a vendor?  
Visit [www.ManageMyMarket.com](http://www.ManageMyMarket.com)



# CALLING ALL Volunteers!

## SEE ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT



### CONSTRUCTION

HELP BUILD A HOME!  
BUILD DAYS ARE EVERY TUES.  
THURS. & SAT. FROM  
7:30AM-12:30PM

TO VIEW OUR CURRENT  
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE, VISIT  
[HABITATOCALA.ORG](http://HABITATOCALA.ORG)

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SERVICE HOURS!

\*RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY\*



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FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE AT [HABITATOCALA.ORG](http://HABITATOCALA.ORG)



## Love is just a leash away!!

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



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

### How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



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



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

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



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



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

Visa  M/C  Discover Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution Charges Man For Stealing More Than \$28,000 In Fraudulent Barcode Scheme

TALLAHASSEE

E, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution charged a man for stealing more than \$28,000 worth of electrical wire in a fraudulent barcode scheme. According to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office investigation, Edrey Santo Rojas stole rolls of wire through fraudulent sales and returns from multiple Lowe's and Home Depot stores in 15 counties throughout Florida and the Southeast United States. In a seven-month period, Rojas fraudulently used authentic barcodes from lesser-priced electrical wire to purchase expensive rolls of wire. Rojas then conducted fraudulent returns by taking products in the store that matched the receipt from the prior purchase to customer service for a full refund. Rojas is charged with multiple felony counts of retail theft.

READ FULL ARTICLE AT <https://tomlpublishing.com/florida-news/>

Attorney General Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution charges man for stealing more than \$28,000 in fraudulent barcode scheme

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READ FULL ARTICLE AT <https://tomlpublishing.com/florida-news/>

Attorney General Moody Secures 30-Year Prison Sentence for Real Estate Investment Fraudster

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a 30-year prison sentence for a man operating an elaborate real estate investment scheme. Miquel Angel Perez defrauded more than 20 victims out of retirement and life savings through a scheme involving real estate pitches and false promises of wealth made from investments. A Pasco County jury found Perez guilty of 22 felonies, including racketeering, grand theft, exploitation and mortgage fraud. The judge sentenced Perez to 30 years in prison.

READ FULL ARTICLE AT <https://tomlpublishing.com/florida-news/>

FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Deploys More Florida Personnel to Secure the Southern Border

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron

DeSantis deployed more National Guardsmen and Florida Highway Patrol Troopers to Texas to assist Texas officials as they work to secure our southern border. Fifty National Guardsmen departed Pensacola in this wave, alongside 76 Florida Highway Patrol Troopers.

"The Biden Border Crisis has made every state a border state, requiring the states to step up and defend our territorial sovereignty," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "I want to extend my sincerest thanks to every law enforcement officer, National Guardsman and member of the State Guard who is serving in Texas."

Since 2021, Florida has sent more than 2,400 law enforcement officers to assist Texas at the southern border. With those officers, the state has also sent more than 600 assets including boats, command buses and ATVs.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces \$25 Million for Workforce Development Initiatives

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron

DeSantis announced an investment of nearly \$25 million from the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program to either create or expand 19 programs dedicated to strengthening workforce development across Florida. The initiative underscores Florida's dedication to equipping students statewide with the essential skills required for success in high-demand occupations.

Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant funding provides Florida students with opportunities for hands-on educational experiences in a broad range of career and technical education programs such as automotive maintenance and light repair, digital video and technology, allied health assisting, criminal justice operations, entrepreneurship, emergency medical responder and many more.

"In Florida we have become the number one state in the nation for talent development by making strategic investments in our workforce," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We will continue to equip students in our state with the skills they need to succeed, without being burdened by debt."

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida is strategically investing in workforce development, ensuring that our state remains at the forefront of innovation," said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr. "This funding reflects our dedication to equipping students with the skills necessary to excel in an increasingly competitive marketplace."

Check out all the latest news from State Officials at [www.TomLPublishing.com](http://www.TomLPublishing.com) (Click CONTRIBUTING EDITORS/FLORIDA STATE WIDE

Advertisement for WOCA radio station. Features a large blue circle with 'ON AIR' sign, 'THE SOURCE' text, and 'News-Talk-Music-Sports' genres. Includes frequencies 96.3 FM and 1370 AM, and the slogan 'TUNE IN'.



# 2024 Ocala American Values Dinner

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

Circle Square Cultural Center,  
8395 SW 80th St., Ocala, FL 34481

**6:00 p.m. Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program**

Register online at: [www.nfscouting.org/AVD](http://www.nfscouting.org/AVD)

Be our guest at the annual American Values Dinner to benefit the Boy Scouts of America.

Funds raised at this event will help make the Scouting program available to young people throughout Marion County.

Scouting continues to thrive due to friends like you who provide the funds to support our mission, "to instill values in young people."

## Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

I am pleased to be a **DIAMOND Table Sponsor for \$10,000** .

*This sponsorship includes:*

- Post-event outing for up to 300 employees/family members at our beautiful St. Johns River Base property in Orange Park or our amazing Camp Shands property in Hawthorne. (Outing to include swimming, canoeing, fishing, kayaking, 40ft rappelling tower)
- VIP Reception with Honorees and Dinner Leadership Team
- Full-page ad in the dinner program
- Company logo displayed on tables and banners at the dinner
- 4 Tables (40 people)

I am pleased to be a **GOLD Table Sponsor for \$5,000**.

*This sponsorship includes:*

- VIP Reception with Honorees and Dinner Leadership Team
- Half-page ad in the dinner program
- Company logo displayed on tables and banners at the dinner
- 2 tables (20 people)

I am pleased to be a **PLATINUM Table Sponsor for \$7,500** .

*This sponsorship includes:*

- VIP Reception with Honorees and Dinner Leadership Team
- 3/4-page ad in the dinner program
- Company logo displayed on tables and banners at the dinner
- 3 tables (30 people)

I am pleased to be a **SILVER Table Sponsor for \$2,500** .

*This sponsorship includes:*

- VIP Reception with Honorees and Dinner Leadership Team
- Company logo displayed on banners at the dinner
- 1 table (10 people)



2024 Honoree  
**Colonel Craig Ham**



2024 Honoree  
**Albert Peek Family**



2024 Dinner Chair  
**Colonel Nick Navetta**

Presenting Sponsor



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**CHARITIES**



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NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL

## Personal Gift Options

I am pleased to provide a pledge of personal support:

\$1,000  \$750  \$500  \$250  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the Ocala American Values Dinner on April 23rd. Guest Names: \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend, but please count on my support as indicated above .

## Pledge/Payment Information

Register online at: [www.nfscouting.org/avd](http://www.nfscouting.org/avd) or mail this form to Boy Scouts of America (Ocala-AVD), PO Box 6407, Ocala, FL 34478.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me an invoice immediately.

Check enclosed (Payable to North Florida Council, BSA)

Please charge my:

Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  Discover

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4 Digit CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact Truman Magley, 260-570-2359 or email [Truman.magley@scouting.org](mailto:Truman.magley@scouting.org).



# Bee's Knees!

I sold it on  
**Ocala4sale.com**  
and you can too!

Ocala **4sale**.com

Marion County's Internet Marketplace

FROM THE DESK OF

## CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Advocating For People With Disabilities & Fixing Biden's Export Ban

It was a big week in Washington. The House finally impeached DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for the utter

negligence at the southern border. We will continue to hold him accountable and push for stronger border security that puts an end to the crisis.

In the Energy & Commerce Committee, we made meaningful headway in gathering support for the Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act. I am a proud sponsor of this bill and had the chance to speak about it during a legislative hearing with the bill's namesake in the audience. Advocating for the sanctity and quality of life for people with disabilities is our responsibility and one I take seriously.

Additionally, I spoke on the House Floor this week about the Biden administration's LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) export ban.

The House also passed H.R. 7176, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, to reverse this LNG ban to protect our American energy jobs and our economy.

READ FULL ARTICLE AT <https://tomlpublishing.com/florida-news/advocating-for-people-with-disabilities-fixing-bidens-export-ban/>

For the Republic, Congresswoman Kat Cammack Proudly Representing Florida's Third Congressional District

Back In The District Working For You! Dear Neighbor,

This week I was back home in the district after three long weeks in Washington! It is always great to be home working with my team to best advocate for the policy issues that impact and matter the most to you. This week, we visited Alachua, Marion, and Gilchrist Counties to meet with folks and hear from them about what's most on their minds. We're looking forward to sharing more details and photos from those stops next week.

While back home in Florida, I joined a letter with 80 of my peers to demand

President Biden take a cognitive test. America is the greatest and most powerful country in the world, and the chief executive must be mentally and physically equipped to tackle the challenges we face. We're concerned about President Biden's mental fitness and are united in ensuring the president—no matter the party—is up to the job.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT <https://tomlpublishing.com/florida-news/back-in-the-district-working-for-you/>

For the Republic, Congresswoman Kat Cammack Proudly Representing Florida's Third Congressional District

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[mcaocala.org](http://mcaocala.org)

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Check Out Our Rent-To-Own Sheds!

**HABITAT OCALA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

March 2, 2024  
9AM-5PM  
McPherson Complex  
601 SE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL

Save The Date!!

- Live Music & Entertainment
- Strawberries
- Vendors
- Food & Drinks
- Car Show
- Pie Eating Contest
- Kid Zone
- And so much more!

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**OCALA BUSINESS LEADERS**

If you are looking to build your business, be our guest.  
6:45 AM – 8:00 AM at Ocala

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WE meet at Ocala Golf Club (Muni)  
3130 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470

Ocala Business Leaders  
352-502-3811

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