



Memorial Day at the Veterans Park in downtown Ocala. This photo is a soldier setting up the wreath in honor of the fallen. Our deadline held us back from having photo's in our June issue but we have plenty in the July issue. CKJ-13 Kay Johnson went out and took pictures for us and it made me feel like I was almost there. Many of the World War two veterans were attending and showing support their brothers in arms. Honoring those who did not come home, and remembering. A lot

of Vietnam veterans were honored. I saw photos of Howard who we honored on our front page last month. He had just turned 100. Many County, state and federal representative were in attendance. I was pleased to see them there. We have more photos on pages 6 & 7 in this issue. Share our digital newspaper with your friends. We are as close as your smart phone.

Tom Loury said that.

Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



Meet BeBo CJ Johnson Photographer new puppy. I ask Kay if she had any photo's she would like to share. She said she has a picture of her new puppy named BeBo. Just look at this photo BeBo is cute as a

button. The photo of course was excellent. CKJ-13 Kay Johnson takes great photos for us. We are blessed.

Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

Was it JUST a Dream?

I Had a Dream! Not I have a dream! I had a dream about what is going on in the world and our country.

Remember the song "Just a Dream / Just a dream. All our Plans and all our Schemes?????"

The way the dream started was right after the Trump verdict I could not sleep. I sat down in my recliner that night with Fox News on slept and woke up every once in a while and it seemed the news was part of my dream. Scholars and legal analyst came from everywhere saying the trial was not real, maybe it was just a dream. Mine was a dream! So what comes next? Do they finish crucifying him, or do they want to drag him through the streets of New York some more. Do they want to lock him away out of hearing and out of sight. I think the cause would just keep growing!

Well that happened to me. Once up on a time there was a man who loved his Country and as he was serving his cause and helping his country, he realized many were trying to use politics to benefit themselves and attack him. Then he realized he needed to dedicate himself to the cause not the benefit. The cause was to make all men and women equal under the law. Let's make something clear men are men and women are women and

some are trying to force themselves into the opposite sex category, they want to be winners of tournaments and compete in life where they could win. Others are the Gay Rights and thats their life to live. As my dream continues I remember waking up from time to time and hearing Fox News on TV and then the Dream continues... Back in the days there were Kings and they had all the power the King not wanting the people thinking the person fighting for justice was more popular than him so started to undermine him, but It did not work because he had a cause. Remember in Biblical times? They drug him thru the streets of New York a place he was born. raised and helped build to crucify him in the eyes of his followers. Remember this is "Just a dream" The King found him guilty of charges that did not ever exist. So they created them.

His followers have appealed to his supreme rulers, Our Supreme Court and they stayed silent. Many scholars from everywhere say the ruling was illegal but the Supreme Court stays silent. In a very short time his followers grew to a tremendous following for this cause, raise million's of followers for what the King did to him, he was "Martered!" the king made up what was against him and making the cause out of

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



THE 2024-2025 OCALA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SEASON ANNOUNCED

OCALA, Fla. (June 18, 2024) – The Ocala Symphony Orchestra is pleased to announce their 2024-2025 season with timeless masterworks, world premieres, and stellar soloists under the baton of Maestro Matthew Wardell. The season begins June 30, 2024, with Red, White, and Ocala Symphony Orchestra Blue, and subscription performances begin October 2024. The upcoming season will feature six subscription concerts and seven special concerts for guests of all ages. Unless otherwise indicated, events are held at the Reilly Arts Center located at 500 NE 9th St. Ocala, FL 34470.

OFR Responds

OFR Responds to Plane Crash at Ocala International Airport

Ocala Fire Rescue responded to a plane crash at the Ocala International Airport on Saturday, June 8, at 7:51 p.m. The initial dispatch included Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF), Engine 4, Squad 7, Battalion Chief 11, and a Safety Officer, following a distress call from a pilot who reported his aircraft had crashed.

Upon arrival at 1770 SW 60th Ave., crews discovered an experimental aircraft with its tail elevated, nestled against a tree line just outside the airport's fence line. The pilot, who was the sole occupant of the aircraft, was alert but unable to exit the plane due to its precarious position and the surrounding trees.

Given the challenging offroad location, first responders utilized a smaller vehicle to reach and extricate the pilot. Once the pilot was assessed and stabilized by emergency personnel, he was carefully helped out of the wreckage and escorted to a waiting ambulance for transport to a medical facility.

Engine 6 and Rescue 6 were initially added to the response but were cancelled prior to arrival. Marion County Fire Rescue, Ocala International Airport Personnel, and the Ocala Police Department also responded.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the State Warning Point were notified.



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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



While the CEP hosts literally hundreds of events each year, there is one series which stands above the rest. Our exCEptional Mornings breakfast

presented by HCA Florida Ocala Hospital is designed to foster connections, inspire growth, and cultivate success for everyone involved.

The CEP started our exCEptional Mornings breakfast more than a decade ago and the reason was to create an event that once a month would provide an opportunity to bring the business community together. It allows us to share information with them that is valuable to our community and to bring a speaker who is of significance to the local business community. Our most recent speakers have included Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, Marion County Board of Commissioners Chair Michelle

Stone with the State of the County, and Robert Long, CEO of Space Florida. It is a great mix of elected officials, agency leaders, and business executives. In fact, those are often our most popular when we have one of our local business executives who talks about their business.

Many times, businesses get focused on what they are doing and what is happening inside of their business. They do not know these incredible stories of success that we are seeing in our community, which can be inspirational but also create new opportunities for businesses. They want to hear these speakers, but they also want this opportunity to network. They know that the people they want to see will be there. I know many people have told me, "Yes, I make sure I am at breakfast because I know I will see people I need to talk to there."

The breakfast this highly sought after event. The event has grown steadily over the years. After selling out our previous home at Church of Hope for 22 straight months, we moved in January to the Reilly Arts Center where we regularly host more than 400 attendees for the event. Make sure to secure your spot for the next gathering in July.

Register today at OcalaCEP.com.

For the CEP, it is a chance to share valuable information: whether that is a program, event, or initiative of the CEP; something happening within local government; or to celebrate a success. It has really been exciting to watch how this program has grown and allows us to share all that is exceptional about living, working, and playing in this community.

**YOUR OPINION
MATTERS!**
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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



Think about what your going to do on election day. You will get all kinds of pressure to vote for a curtain person. Ask yourself how did he preform while he was in office. Was your life better for it?

What will happen if Trump wins? Oil drilling will increase right away. the Auto Industry will bounce back, the coal industry will open back up, people will actually have

jobs they can be proud of. We will have new refinery's. We will close the border the same day. We will make a decision about the immigrant's in this country. Most will go. The really bad ones will go to prison or go back to the prison they came out of.

If Biden wins? OH MY GOSH! More of the same. Social Security might disappear. Healthcare will suffer. Remember Socialist don't believe the elderly should be alive. The very young and the very old is none productive. The immigrant's are over running our country now I can't imagine what it will be like in five months or next

year. Hunter will go back to his old tricks.

On the debate stage Biden is going to say I am debating Trump is a convicted Felon and Trump will say I'm debating someone that is to old and to senile to prosecute. Then there will be chaos.

Trump is coming and the working people are coming with him. I mean the black, whites, Espanic's, all the people Biden has lied too all these years. There will be a few hard decisions to make and some fighting but the patriots of America will win! They won't have to die on a foreign beach head.

Read your doctor report asking "Is a Drug with 32 side effects right for you?"

I have exceeded the limits of my doctors prescription drugs.

Do you see all the immigrants coming across the border with cell phones in their hands????

It's a Federal Program that is legal for them to use as a solution for them to receive information that pertains to Status in US, Healthcare, housing, EBT Entitlement, notification and information. The funding is tucked away in bill, appropriated by some

existing law or Executive order.

Regardless it's a bunch of wasteful spending of our Government. The Wireless Industry was lobbying the House to approve or appropriate \$7B for 2024 to provide Tablets to Entitlement Families. It didn't get approved.

Commander, the President Biden Family dog bit just Secret service personnel over 20 times. The white house staff who knows how many times. Many White House service personnel have adjustd their schedule to avoid the dog.

Going across our nation are movements about hating our country. Get the hell out of our country. You did not make it what it is our ancestors did. You think it's cool to be a part of a movement. Well I have a movement every morning if I'm lucky. Some times it's a great task.

Send us a letter to the editor. PO Box 1698 Dunnellon Florida or email me and put your phone number at the end of the letter so I can verify you sent it. Last name will not be used

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for August
Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
Noon, July 19th
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, July 24th

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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Update on Reverse Mortgages

Tuesday, July 9, 12:30pm
The Standard Coffee Lounge, 1552 Bella Cruz, The Villages

Register: 352-462-0636 or www.RMexplained.com

Wednesday, July 17, 12:30pm
Bob Evans, 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages

Safely Apply Home Equity to Your Financial Security

Lunch provided with Reservation **Presented by:**
Dan Kapellen
NMLS 2302495
Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist
Resident of The Villages

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We meet every Wednesday at different restaurants weekly throughout the year. To get invited to our referral club Call Tom Loury 352-804-1223

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



From the Desk of Senator Dennis Baxley---

Good morning friends-

With the elections just around the corner, I wanted to share with you the constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot for the General Election on November 5th, 2024.

Amendment One – Partisan Election of Members of District School Board – HJR 31 passed by the Legislature 2024... This will require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election.

Amendment Two – Right to Fish and Hunt – CS/HJR 1157 passed by the Legislature 2024... Preserving the forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibility managing and controlling fish and wildlife.

Amendment Three – Adult Personal Use of Marijuana – Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use.

Amendment Four – Limit Government Interference with Abortion – No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's Constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Amendment Five – Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions – Requires an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent resident of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.

Amendment Six – Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement – Repeals the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

It's not too early with the primary coming up on August 20, 2024, to make sure your voting registration is in order and you know where your voting precinct is located.

Onward & Upward



Rainbow Springs State Park

Babe it's HOT outside! That means Rainbow Springs State Park is getting very, very busy. This news letter is going to be a reminder to everyone about the dos and don'ts of the park weather your new to our area or here year-round, it's always good to review. The weekends are extremely busy and as most have seen Hwy.41 north and south bound lanes are backed up. This creates a very dangerous situation. Therefore, you will notice a Sherriff Officer monitoring the park, the park entrances and exits on the weekends to ensure safety. To keep the traffic flowing, off of Hwy 41, you might be redirected out. So don't be surprised when we have reached capacity and the park is closed that you are informed of this. Plan you day early as there are many times we reach capacity within 1-2 hours and may not reopen. We do this for safety reasons. In our swim area the water is very deep so be prepared with either a life vest, which MUST be worn, you cannot use it to float on top of. Styrofoam noodles not plastic noodles are the only floatation allowed in the water. No tubes, rafts, Kayaks or paddles boards are allowed in the swim area. If you are on a vessel you can dock it at the boat ramp rental area and walk to the swim area to swim. No swimming is allowed outside of the swim area, no scuba

diving is allowed in the State Park aquatic area. Please remember we are an aquatic preserve. If you swim outside the area you are disturbing the underwater life and growth. Infants can be in the 2 holed tube float and handicapped individuals can use their approved handicapped device. The swim dock is small so we ask that no chairs, strollers, tables and personnel belongings are on the dock, no sun bathing as well as this becomes a trip hazard. Leave you radios up on the lawn area and not on the swim dock. Parents, please keep an eye on your children we do not have life guards and things can happen quickly. Lastly, do not hang on the rope lines, when you do this it wears away the coating on the ropes causing them to stretch, and then the ropes sink to the bottom. Do not climb on the big orange buoys. Boats that are powered by gas and trolling motors are not permitted in the River of the State Park. Trolling motors must be lifted and you must paddle into the aquatic area. Our Patrol Boat has an electric motor and that is how we are able to patrol the water. Rainbow Springs State Park welcomes you and we want you to have a great memorable time so please help us to keep you safe as well. We are looking for volunteers on our Boat Patrol, Wednesday crew, parking and gift shop. If you have just a few hours please contact Thea.M.Knott@FloridaDep.gov. Office:352-465-8518.

Laura Fronk
Volunteer Liaison

Ocala Events



Patriotic Skies: A Fourth of July Drone Experience
Thursday, July 4, 2024 | 5 - 10 p.m. | Free to attend
Tuscawilla Park | 800 NE Sanchez Ave.

Experience an unforgettable Fourth of July celebration like never before! Join us for a stunning drone show that will light up the night sky in a dazzling display of patriotism and creativity. Marvel at the synchronized movements of 300 drones as they paint the sky with colors and shapes, creating a truly mesmerizing experience for all ages.

After Dark in The Park-- SPACE JAM
Date: 07/26/2024 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location: Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, Florida 34475

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ONE Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park

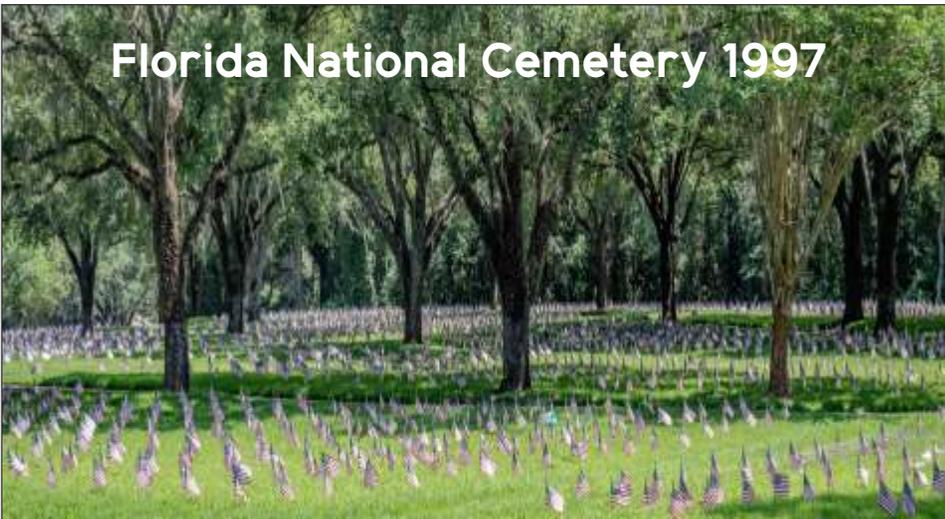
Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



ONE Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson





Florida National Cemetery 1997

This is a photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson of the Florida National Cemetery. It is the resting place of my mother-in-Law and Father-in-Law Wilbur & Mary Standen. A

great couple. Wilbur was in World War two and lived to be 90 yr old Mary made it to 95. They lived on our farm after retiring and saw their grand children.

Private School Choice

One Million Students Now Using Private School Choice

(NAPSI)—Here's news many parents may be interested to learn: According to the most recent data available, 1,038,487 K-12 students are currently enrolled in an education savings account (ESA), voucher, tax-credit scholarship, tax-credit ESA, or refundable tax credit program. While some states provide data for the most recent school year, others lag behind, so actual participation is likely higher.

"When Milton and Rose Friedman founded EdChoice in 1996 to lead the way for universal education freedom, there were about 10,000 students participating in choice programs," said EdChoice President and CEO Robert Enlow. "Today, that number has grown a hundred-fold. Over 1 million students can learn in the environment of their family's choosing thanks to policies that empower parents with the freedom and

flexibility to be in the driver's seat of their child's education."

Trends in Education

Participation in these programs has grown steadily in recent decades, with rapid growth taking off around 2020, and roughly doubling since. At the same time, policymakers across the country have been increasing student access to private school choice programs at record pace. In 2021, West Virginia created the nation's first school choice program with universal eligibility, and the following year, Arizona made its ESA program available to all students. Today, 12 states offer educational choice programs for all or nearly all students. Nationwide, there are 75 school choice programs spread across 33 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

In all, nearly 22 million students, or 40%, now have access to a private school choice program. With so many families gaining

eligibility to programs in only the last few years, participation is expected to rise. This school choice momentum, which was building for years and years, exploded after the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents took what was solid growth and supercharged the movement for educational freedom. Prior to the pandemic, many state choice programs, although broad, were limited in who could apply.

"We know from survey data that parents aren't getting what they want in their child's learning environment," Enlow said. "More than 60% say, if given the opportunity to choose something other than their local public school, they would. Yet, only about 20% are doing so. As states increase access to school choice programs, we know the gap in parent preferences and actual enrollment will continue to close, and students will be happier and more successful because of it."

Storm Power Outage

1. Before a storm identify which equipment could be needed. Chainsaws or pole saws can trim and clear limbs and shrubs that may break off or get damaged by high winds. String trimmers, pruners and chainsaws can remove other material from around your home that may make it vulnerable to wildfires.

A portable generator powers key appliances and charges cell phones when utilities go down. A whole house generator can keep the lights and appliances on and running. Before an outage, plan where the generator will be set up (never in a home or garage, and always away from your home and any air intake) and determine how to secure it if needed. Buy and install a carbon monoxide detector. Get outdoor-rated extension cords for portable generators and consider adding an approved generator cover

for rainy weather.

Water pumps can get water and muck out of basements and homes. Be sure you know how to operate the pump. Never pump substances that your equipment is not designed to cope with. Pay attention to avoid overheating and follow all safety precautions.

A utility type vehicle can transport people and supplies quickly in an emergency. Keep the vehicle stable and drive slowly. Do not turn mid-slope or while on a hill. Consider taking a UTV safety course.

2. Always read and follow the safety and usage recommendations provided by outdoor power equipment manufacturers. Never disable safety features. Practice how to operate equipment before you need it. Follow all recommended safety measures on the product as well as in the owner's manual.

3. Have the right fuel on hand and charge batteries ahead of bad weather. Most gasoline-powered equipment uses E10 or less fuel and most manufacturers recommend adding a fuel stabilizer. Fuel that is more than 30 days old may phase separate and cause running problems, so it's important to purchase fuel just ahead of a storm. Store fuel safely and only use an approved fuel container. Only use manufacturer-recommended batteries.

4. Pay attention to your energy level and health. Preparation for bad weather, a power outage and storm cleanup can be taxing. Do not operate power equipment when tired or overly fatigued. Drink plenty of water and take regular breaks. Always use safety gear such as chaps, gloves, eye protection and hearing protection when operating equipment.

5. Always keep children and pets away from operating outdoor power equipment. Outdoor power equipment are not toys, and should never be used in a manner not intended by the manufacturer.

CKJ Photos 13

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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. Get engaged!

EARN CREDIBILITY

Research shows businesses who belong to a chamber are more successful. Have your reputation!

EXPAND YOUR NETWORK

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IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

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ADVOCATE

The CEP is a single, strong, unified voice that advocates publicly for your business. Get support!

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List your job openings with the CEP to recruit your next staff member. Expand your team!

CEP BUSINESS SUPPORT

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WEBSITE AT HABITATOCALA.ORG



Love is just a leash away!!

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

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

How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



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



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

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



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



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

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

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

FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



**AG MOODY
URGES
FLORIDIANS TO
SEND IN AWARD
NOMINATIONS
FOR 2024 HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
SUMMIT AS
DEADLINE
RAPIDLY**

APPROACHES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—As the deadline for award nominations rapidly approaches, Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging Floridians to submit applications and sign up to attend the 2024 Human Trafficking Summit. Friday, June 28, is the final day to submit nominations. Awards will be presented at the summit to individuals who made a difference in the past year to fight human trafficking in the state of Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Each year, we recognize outstanding Floridians for their extraordinary work in the fight to end human trafficking. The deadline to submit award nominations is rapidly approaching, so don't delay! You can learn more about each award and submit nominations, as well as reserve your spot for our virtual event, by visiting HumanTraffickingSummit.com.”

The Florida Attorney General's Office presents the following awards every year during the Human Trafficking Summit: Survivor Advocate of the Year, Community Advocate of the Year, Prosecutor of the Year and Law Enforcement Official of the Year.

The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile

Justice also recognize an individual from there

The 2024 Human Trafficking Summit will launch virtually on Oct. 1. Registration is free of charge and includes sessions covering recent updates and developments in the subjects of legal, service delivery, and education and awareness.

To learn about the signs of human trafficking and how to properly report suspicious activity to law enforcement, visit YouCanStopHT.com.

AG MOODY ANNOUNCES ARREST OF SIX FRAUDSTERS FOR STEALING NEARLY \$250,000 FROM SENIORS THROUGH GRANDPARENT SCAMS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution today announced the arrest of six fraudsters for stealing nearly \$250,000 from Florida seniors through grandparent scams. The Miami-Dade Police Department's Vice Intelligence Squad reports that the defendants contacted seniors posing as lawyers or legal representatives of one of the victim's grandchildren. The fraudsters told the targets that the grandchildren were arrested after hitting a pregnant woman with a vehicle and needed bail money, then arranged for the victim to send payment.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “These fraudsters know that most grandparents would do anything to help a grandchild in need, and through a convincing imposter scheme they used fear

Continued page 11

FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



DeSantis Commits Increases to Teacher Pay

HIALEAH, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his commitment to approving a historic teacher salary funding increase of \$1.25 billion in the budget for Fiscal Year 2024–25. Since 2019, Florida has invested over \$4 billion in teacher pay increases and has raised starting teacher pay by nearly \$10,000. To learn more, click here.

“Florida's education system is number one in the nation, and we want to make sure good educators are attracted to Florida with attractive compensation,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “I am proud to have invested more than \$4 billion for teacher pay increases since the beginning of my time in office, and I will continue to push for increased funding for Florida's teachers.”

“I want to thank Governor DeSantis for his steadfast commitment and unwavering dedication to Florida's education system throughout the years,” said Florida Department of Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr. “Florida continues to attract some of the best educators in the country and it is a testament to the work that Governor DeSantis has done to support education and raise teacher pay. Florida is the education state and with investments like this, we will continue to lead the nation for years to come.”

For the 2023–2024 school year, Florida's average starting teacher pay is over \$48,000, and the average teacher salary exceeds

\$54,000. Before Governor DeSantis took office, there was no dedicated, recurring funding for teacher pay increases. In 2020, the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation was established in the budget and has risen from \$500,000,000 to more than \$1.25 billion approved today for the upcoming year. Thanks to the work of Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, Florida has the highest average starting teacher salary in the southeast United States.

DeSantis Highlights Coral Reef

MARATHON, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted Florida's investments in coral reef protection and announced enhancements to the 2024 Lionfish Challenge and 2024 Lobster Mini-Season. Through the FY 2024-2025 Focus on Florida's Future Budget, the Governor invested a historic \$57 million for coral reef restoration and coastal protection, bringing the total investment in these efforts in the Governor's second term to over \$114 million.

The Governor also highlighted \$5 million in funding to create additional artificial reef habitats through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This funding will support the establishment of an innovative framework for installing, overseeing, and preserving artificial reef habitats in the Florida Keys.

And earlier this year, Governor DeSantis allocated \$9.5 million to Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative.

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AG Moody

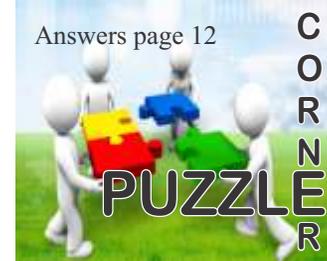
Continued from page 10

and family to extort Florida seniors—stealing nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Working with our great law enforcement partners in South Florida, we were able to shut down this far-reaching grandparent scheme and now six fraudsters will have to answer for their crimes.”

Miami-Dade Police Department Director

Stephanie V. Daniels said, “I am immensely proud of the Miami-Dade Police Department's Vice Intelligence Squad, for their exceptional collaboration with the Florida Attorney General, and federal agencies in successfully apprehending individuals involved in extorting the elderly population. Their dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to protecting our community's most vulnerable population are truly commendable.”

After telling the targets the falsified story about the grandchildren in jail, the fraudsters pressured seniors to provide bail money. According to the investigation, the defendants directed the victims to obtain the bail amount in cash, then place it into a box to be picked up by a courier. The couriers—unknowing ride-share drivers booked by the criminals—picked up the cash and transported the money back to the scammers at an arranged rendezvous spot.



Across

- 1. Hit, as with a whip
- 5. Seagoing vessel
- 10. Arid
- 14. Bone near the elbow
- 15. High home
- 16. Cat's weapon
- 17. Big win, say
- 20. Frat party staple
- 21. Knitting need
- 22. External
- 23. Zilch
- 24. Is a nuisance to
- 26. Like two-digit number systems
- 29. Male and female
- 30. Portent
- 31. Throat trouble
- 32. Like the Hatter
- 35. Democratic principle
- 39. Disgusted, with "up"
- 40. Mimics
- 41. Beer

- 42. Santiago is its capital
- 43. A little seasick, say
- 45. Red shade
- 48. Small and weak
- 49. XVII x IX
- 50. Tank contents
- 51. Free (of)
- 54. Painting that became an RCA symbol
- 58. Lawn problem
- 59. Available, as a flat
- 60. Commoner
- 61. Ending for neur-
- 62. Popular locks
- 63. Exam

Down

- 1. Prepare for an ambush
- 2. Toward the sheltered side
- 3. Stocking ruiner
- 4. Owns
- 5. Household warbler
- 6. Nostalgically fashionable
- 7. Elvis __ Presley
- 8. Pine family tree
- 9. Golf course area
- 10. Pack members
- 11. Upper crust
- 12. Soap Box Derby entrant
- 13. Wide-spouted pitchers
- 18. Court hearing
- 19. Noted Nez Percé chief
- 23. Author Grey
- 24. Pmt. coupon tear-off lines
- 25. COO, for one
- 26. Box office smash
- 27. Nagy of Hungary
- 28. Lack
- 29. Put away for later
- 31. Refine, as ore
- 32. Sorvino of "Mimic"
- 33. Winning cards
- 34. Like morning grass
- 36. Showy perennial
- 37. Mayberry lad
- 38. Follow orders
- 42. Felonies, e.g.
- 43. Knights' expeditions
- 44. Silver State inst.
- 45. Dumbbell
- 46. Advertising awards
- 47. Usher's beat
- 48. Blender button
- 50. Went down
- 51. Make angry
- 52. Sorbet relatives
- 53. Obligation
- 55. Porker's hangout
- 56. __ man: unanimously
- 57. Choose

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FROM THE DESK OF

CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Rep. Cammack Applauds Wins For Florida Producers In 2024 Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Early this morning, the House Agriculture Committee completed its full committee markup of

the 2024 Farm Bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. Congresswoman Cammack voted to pass the bill, joining her colleagues for a final bipartisan vote of 33 to 21.

Congresswoman Cammack spoke during the opening remarks for Members during the markup, lauding the bill's provisions that will support Florida's farmers, ranchers, and producers. View her full comments here.

Included in the bill are several wins for Florida's specialty crop producers, including the establishment of a specialty crop committee, funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, more funding for specialty crop mechanization and automation research. Additionally, the bill ensures AGI (adjusted gross income)

waivers for disasters and eliminates the AGI limitation for farmers who make more than 75 percent of their income from agriculture.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act also includes the standing block grant authority for specialty crops, which stems from one of Congresswoman Cammack's leading legislative initiatives before the House Agriculture Committee.

While citrus producers continue to struggle with citrus greening, Rep. Cammack helped reauthorize the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program.

For agricultural labor, Rep. Cammack secured a groundbreaking program for precision agriculture and improves precision agriculture practices and their accessibility for producers.

The Livestock Indemnity Program is updated within this bill to increase the payment rate to 100 percent of the fair market value of the animal. Rep. Cammack's effort to secure this provision will help Florida's ranchers continue their way of life in the 21st century.

Florida's rich timber industry will be able to maintain its health with the Forest

Service's authority to expand existing programs to address wildfire.

Finally, Florida's commodities received a critical voluntary base acre update and a commodity price raise.

Rep. Cammack praised the work of the Committee, saying:

"The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 is the culmination of a lot of hard work and listening to producers from around the country. The crafting of this bill has been no easy endeavor, and we still have a long way to go in getting this across the finish line. However, to secure so many critical wins in this base text for Florida farmers, ranchers, and producers is a big relief. Knowing the tremendous pressures our agriculture community has been under in the Sunshine State, it was said all along that Florida had both the most to lose and the most to gain in this bill and I am so glad that we came out on the favorable side of that equation.

"Florida will remain a strong and competitive production agriculture state because of this work and I am so thankful for the many people and organizations that helped along the way. I am especially proud of my team and my local producers who took so much time over the years to help craft this thoughtful and impactful policy. We are looking forward to the next steps of bringing this bill to the House Floor for a full vote and ultimately, to the President's desk."

Rep. Cammack Joins Colleagues In Bipartisan Resolution To Memorialize Officers Lost In Line Of Duty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Rep. Cammack joined a bipartisan delegation of members to introduce a resolution which seeks to honor and

memorialize law enforcement whose lives were lost in the line of duty.

H. Res. 1226 expresses unwavering support for law enforcement across the nation and recognizes the importance that police officers have all the equipment and resources necessary to keep our communities safe in order to protect them while they tirelessly protect us.



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