

ATTENTION MARION COUNTY

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR PEOPLE!

Some of this information is from the web PLUS I have been saying for over a year to Marion County, figure out how to raise money without raising the value of the homes.

CONTROL THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S PRICE

I think what the mortgage company's, the County's and the Insurance companies are doing something that is unconstitutional. It's the perfect storm for them but the mortgage holders are being victimised!

I have been listening to complaints coming from Homeowners in Marion County for a long time.

You raise the value of their home so you can raise the taxes so you will have more money to spend. I get that! The insurance company's raise the replacement price on the mortgage and the Insurance rate goes up hundreds of dollars per month every year. The people have been saying minimum \$100 per month more, \$1200 per year. Then the next year you raise the value on the same house and the taxes go up again and the Insurance goes up another \$100 per month. Now you have raise many mortgage holders payments \$200 per month \$2400 per year Minimum in two years. Some mortgage holders say they are paying double that figure. THE COUNTY FATHERS ARE CAUSING THIS! Find another way to raise money you are killing the mortgage holders. You will go down in history as the Board that ruined peoples lives!

Forclosures

From the Internet

DC Watch Dogs says! IT'S A BLOOD BATH! American homeowners are losing their houses at rates unseen since the aftermath of the financial crisis, and the culprit isn't a banking collapse—it's the relentless squeeze of everyday costs that have made staying afloat impossible for millions.

Quick Take

U.S. foreclosure filings surged to 45,921 properties in March 2026, marking 12 consecutive months of year-over-year

increases and reaching levels not seen in years

Property tax hikes, **insurance premiums**, and soaring living expenses are pushing homeowners into default, even those with substantial equity in their homes

Delaware, Nevada, and Florida face the steepest foreclosure rates, with one in every 1,612 housing units in foreclosure in Delaware alone

Lenders initiated 30,334 foreclosure proceedings in March, up 21 percent year-over-year, while completed repossessions jumped 42 percent.

The Slow-Motion Housing Crisis Nobody Saw Coming

The numbers tell a story that contradicts the cheerful real estate headlines. While the 2008 financial crisis exploded with sudden fury, today's foreclosure wave arrives quietly, month after month, as homeowners discover that owning a house costs far more than the mortgage payment.

March 2026 brought 45,921 foreclosure filings across America—up 18% from February alone and 28% higher than March 2025. These aren't subprime borrowers with sketchy loans; many are middle-class families who locked in favorable mortgage rates years ago, only to face property taxes and insurance bills that have doubled or tripled.

The cruel irony haunting today's housing market is that homeowners with significant equity are losing their homes. Rising insurance costs in Florida and Nevada, combined with aggressive property tax assessments, have created a perfect storm.

Geography of Desperation

The crisis is concentrated in specific regions, revealing which states have failed to manage housing affordability. South Carolina, Indiana, and Florida lead the nation in foreclosure rates. Delaware saw one in every 1,612 housing units enter foreclosure in January 2026—a staggering concentration.

Texas, California, and Florida round out

Continued page 3

We are Proud!

I am very excited to announce that we will have a Veterans column furnished by a veteran named Todd Belknap. It will run every month the Ocala DownTown digital news. There is currently 48,000 veterans in Marion County and are in various small pockets. We hope it could be gather into one big group, but we will honor them how ever they are. It is very important to honor our Veterans. Thank them for their service and

make sure you honor the fallen. They made the supreme sacrifice!

Many of the people are Patriots, what does that mean. A person who loves, supports, and defends their country and its interests with LOVE OF COUNTRY!

So Please show your gratitude for those who served!

We love our country.

TomL

Three Transported After Ambulance Rollover on I-75



(OCALA, FL.) May 19, 2026 – A medical transport vehicle was involved in a collision resulting in a rollover with lane blockage on I-75 Northbound, near mile marker 354, at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Ocala Fire Rescue's Engine 1, Rescue 1, Squad 1, Battalion Chief 22, and a Safety Officer were dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, crews found a three-vehicle collision involving two personal vehicles and an American Ambulance transport van, which was found on its side.

Passersby assisted in evacuating the

patient and two transport personnel from the overturned ambulance, prior to the responders' arrival. All three individuals were transported to nearby hospitals for further evaluation. No other injuries were reported from the incident.

The two left-most lanes of I-75 NB remained blocked until approximately 6:30 p.m., causing notable traffic delays.

Marion County Fire Rescue, the Florida Highway Patrol, and the Road Rangers also responded.

Hantavirus

From The web

The Hantavirus is not new in the United States, Betsy Arakawa, the wife of Gene Hackman, likely contracted fatal hantavirus in February 2025 by breathing in airborne particles from infected rodent droppings or urine at their Santa Fe, New Mexico home. Environmental assessments revealed significant rodent infestations in several outbuildings on their property.

Scientist are saying It does not seem to be highly contagious it is almost like it is hard to contract from other humans unless you have close contact, but when cleaning in out building and storage areas that you see rodent dropping or urine beware. Take preventative measures not to breath the dust.

Where in the U.S. is hantavirus most common?

Hantavirus in the U.S. is most common in the **western states**, with the highest

concentration of cases in the **Four Corners region**—New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Utah. While infections are rare overall, they primarily occur in rural areas where the deer mouse, the main carrier, is prevalent

Key Regional Data (1993–2023):

- **New Mexico:** Holds the highest number of reported cases, with over 129 infections.
- **Colorado:** Has the second-highest number, with 121 cases.
- **Arizona & Utah:** Significant numbers of cases, frequently experiencing incidents due to high rodent activity.

- **California:** Also reports a significant number of cases compared to the rest of the country.

unknown.gif

Key Points on Exposure:

- Most cases occur in rural settings, often associated with cleaning enclosed, dusty

Continued page 3

TODD BELKNAP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
VETERANS HELPING VETERANS USA



THE VETERAN WATCHSTANDER

Greetings! This is the maiden column designed to highlight Veterans' events and activities taking place in Marion County, as well as to raise awareness of issues that concern the Veteran community at large. On behalf of the 46,000 Veterans calling Marion County home, I extend our deepest gratitude to TomL Publishing (Ocala DownTown) news for this opportunity.

The month of June brings a Summer break from organizational meetings and gatherings for many, while others continue to host activities. One such instance is the 5th Annual Marion County PTSD Awareness Day Walk. All are welcome to take part in this Community Event at Tusawilla Park on Saturday, June 27 at 8 am for a 2.2 mile walk to help raise awareness about PTSD and the local resources available to help remedy/enhance the quality of life for anyone struggling with PTSD.

PTSD t-shirts are on sale to help fund 3 local non-profit resources – Veterans Helping Veterans USA, Marion County Fire Rescue Peer Support and Marion County Sheriff's Office Peer Support. Shirts are available at www.mission1776.org/ptsd-shirts. Every penny from your purchase stays here in Marion County to help effectively address PTSD. We hope you join us June 27!

See you next month!



Advertise
with us!

Call/Email Tom: 352-804-1223 tloury@att.net

Turning 65 or new to Medicare?

It's time to get Medicare-ready

Learn about your plan options from a licensed sales agent with no obligation to enroll

Have Medicare questions? A licensed sales agent can explain how it all works. Get answers to questions like:

How much will my insurance cost each year?

How much will my prescriptions cost?

Are my current doctors in Humana's network?

Does this plan cover me when I'm traveling?

More than a health plan

Humana's Medicare Advantage plans are designed to go above and beyond, with benefits that do more than you might expect. We call that human care.



Call a licensed independent sales agent



CHRISTINE CALVERT

352-572-8510 (TTY: 711)

Christine@
medicarehealthplus.com

Humana® A more human way to healthcare®

Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO and PFFS organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. **At Humana, it is important you are treated fairly.** Humana Inc. and its subsidiaries comply with applicable federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, ancestry, ethnicity, marital status, religion or language. **English:** ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **877-320-1235 (TTY: 711)**. **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **877-320-1235 (聽障專線: 711)**。

Foreclosures

Continued from page 1

the top tier, though their rankings shift monthly as different regions experience acute cost pressures.

Tourism-dependent states like Florida and Nevada face particular strain, as their higher property values and insurance premiums create thinner margins for homeowners already stretched thin.

ATTOM Data CEO Rob Barber frames this as “gradual normalization,” a measured return to historical averages after pandemic-era government interventions artificially suppressed foreclosures.

But normalization is a clinical term that obscures human suffering. From 2021 to 2023, federal forbearance programs and eviction moratoriums kept millions in their homes despite payment difficulties.

The Lender's Perspective

Banks aren't acting out of malice; they're responding to portfolio pressures. Lenders initiated 30,334 foreclosure proceedings in March 2026, while completing 5,229 repossessions—a 42 percent jump from the previous year.

Each completed foreclosure adds inventory to markets already struggling with affordability. These aren't distressed sales offering bargains; they're forced liquidations that depress entire neighborhoods and signal broader economic dysfunction. The acceleration in completed repossessions suggests lenders have moved beyond patience into action mode.

What Comes Next

The trajectory suggests that foreclosure activity will continue to climb through 2026. Twelve consecutive months of year-over-year increases represent a trend, not a blip.

Property taxes show no signs of declining, insurance costs continue spiraling in high-risk states, and inflation keeps squeezing household budgets.

The housing market that seemed so robust during the pandemic boom now appears fragile—built on historically low interest rates and government support that proved temporary. For millions of Americans, the dream of homeownership is becoming a nightmare of costs they simply cannot sustain.

Foreclosure filings across the U.S. were up 14% year-over-year in February 2026.

Nationwide, one in every 3,701 housing units had a foreclosure filing in February 2026.

The states with the highest foreclosure rates per housing unit in February 2026 were Texas, Florida, and California.

The states with the most total foreclosure

filings were Texas, California, and Florida.

West Virginia, Vermont, and South Dakota had the lowest foreclosure rates in February 2026.

Hantavirus

Continued from page 1

spaces (cabins, sheds) contaminated by rodent droppings.

- While deer mice are found nationwide, the vast majority of cases occur west of the Mississippi River.

- Cases are rare, with typically fewer than 1,000 confirmed nationwide since tracking began in 1993.

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome - Symptoms & causes - Mayo Clinic

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is a human disease found only in North and South America. Each strain of the hantavirus has a prefer...

Take precautions with hantavirus. Coloradans at higher risk. - UCHealth

Hantavirus infections are uncommon overall — fewer than 1,000 cases have been reported in the U.S., according to health experts at...

Cases of Hantavirus by State (2026 Updates) - Box-Kat

Cases of Hantavirus by State: What You Need to Know (2026 Updates) May 4, 2026. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is a rare but ...

Where is Hantavirus present? The countries that have reported cases of the virus globally. The virus is widely spread across North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and parts of Africa, with major clusters in the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Germany, France, China, and India, showing its ability to adapt to different environments and its growing global reach.

edwardjones.com/findyourrich | Member SIPC

Let's find your rich

Edward Jones

What does it mean to be rich?
 Maybe it's less about a magic number and more about discovering the magic in life.

Contact me today, and let's find your rich.

Nick Navetta, AAMS®
 Financial Advisor
 814 East Silver Springs Blvd
 Suite B
 Ocala, FL 34470
 352-629-2165

CAT-16762-A-A1-AD © 2025 EDWARD D. JONES CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD 25579022

Make your voice known!
tloury@att.net

Advertisers & Editorial

Attention Advertisers and Editorial Contributors

All ads are in color
 All ads must be supplied by you as a PDF

Editorial copy may be sent with no guarantees
 All communications are by email
tloury@att.net

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. If you want to make contact with the newspaper / Tom Loury email TLoury@att.net

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



BY TomL

I think re-dedicating our County to God is the best thing I have heard in years. We need to be thankful to our forefathers who set our country up with God as our savior.

What ever god you believe in please continue. Local ministers preach accept God as your savior, putting in a frame work of our whole country doing it is epic! Dedicate your life. I would like to thank our Veterans for fighting to keep our heritage. The visitors in our country Illegals need to go Home to their own country instead of trying to change our country by rioting. Communism should not be allowed here. ATHEIST GO HOME, WE ARE OFFERING TO PAY YOUR WAY!

Which brings me to the veterans all over the world Thank You! To show our appreciation we will be having a Veterans

column every month. Call a veteran and thank them! See a veteran thank them.

I am so discussed with the last two administrations Obama and Biden. Everyone is racing to our country because they like what they see, FREE EVERYTHING we need to change it. That is just like now people moving out of states because they elected sorry managers and now they will settle here and try to change us to what they were. A group of people think they have better ideas then they pick sorry leaders, or worst yet thieves, robbing the poor and innocent needy. People all around us are reaching for a free ride!

Today I get many texts and email asking for money saying the other side is going to change our laws. Well they might but you don't have to threaten people to collect money or give a local title with a party then say you taken that title away because you don't contribute. They want half of your grocery money Their not shy!

Politition's should work for nothing,

Trump does! Make it illegal for them to make outside money on Stocks they can maneuver. Elect people to fit our mold they are smart and tell them they are working for nothing for four years or two years FREE!

If they lie, cheat or steal make it a mandatory sentence and fired! Create a Supreme Court oversight! If the Supreme Court is bias and it is proven take them off the Supreme Court. If someone accuses them wrong doing and they and they are found not guilty investigate the accuser! Have a mandatory sentence for that!

Today anyone can accuse anybody of anything. We need to make a law that says they can't do that. If a group creates illegal activity jail them or deport them. The lord has told us to forgive but we should not be stupid about it! Get the away from our children!

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Bronson Career Center Opens

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion has opened a new career center in Bronson, expanding access to workforce development services for businesses and job seekers across Levy County.

The center is located at 375 Garner St., Suite E in the Levy County Government

Complex and is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All services are offered at no charge. CareerSource CLM also operates a career center at the College of Central Florida Jack Wilkinson Levy Campus, open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The campus location follows a Monday–Thursday schedule from mid-May through early August.

Dale French, CSCLM's executive vice president, said the two-site strategy strengthens access to workforce solutions.

"The timing couldn't be better with the college shifting to summer hours, the new Bronson office ensures consistent, expanded access to workforce services," French said. "It gives businesses and job seekers a dependable weekday option right in the heart of the county."

CSCLM is a not-for-profit dedicated to helping businesses find, train and retain employees while assisting job seekers at all skill levels secure meaningful employment or advance their careers through personalized services and training opportunities.

For more information about CareerSource CLM's fee-free workforce development programs and services in Levy County, call 352-493-6813 or 800-434-5627, or visit careersourceclm.com.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for July

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, June 19th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, June 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

The "Ocala DownTown" (Newspaper) www.OcalaDownTown.com (Online Product) and the Seniors Voice of Ocala (Newspaper) and www.SeniorsVoiceofOcala.com are owned and operated by TomL Publishing LLC, a sole proprietor Corp. Its owners, editors, writers, compositors, printers and publishers are not responsible or liable for typographical errors, misinformation, misprints, and the like, unintentionally contained herein. All letter hard copies or online received become the property of TomL Publishing LLC and may be reproduced without further consent. All above are independent contractors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR reflect the opinion of the writer, not the opinion of these newspapers. Letters should be online typed and limited to 300 words or less. Letters must have the written signature of the author and the current telephone number. Signatures for publication may be withheld on request. Letters that are libelous, or considered in poor taste, or are personal in nature, will not be published.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE 1996. The contents of this publication are protected by the copyright laws of the United States of America. Any reproduction in part or in whole is forbidden without the express written consent of the publisher. Violators can be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

COLUMNS are the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the above named newspapers and online products. Writers are chosen to represent a diversity of views on local issues. The editorial on page 4 is the opinion of the Publisher only.

THE REVERSE MORTGAGE
Lunch & Learn

What Homeowners 62+ Should Know

Register: 352-768-5223 or www.RMexplained.com

Wednesday, June 17, 11:00am
Bob Evans, 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages (near 466a & Morse Blvd)

Lunch provided with Reservation
Call or Text 352-768-5223
Online www.rmexplained.com

Presented by:
Dan Kapellen
NMLS 2302495
Certified Veterans Lending Specialist
Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist
Your Loan Navigator
Resident of The Villages




Attention Advertisers!

All ads are 4 color! All of editorial Photos, clubs, ads must be in PDF events, etc, submitted format Jpeg has a must be in focus and tendency to get weak clear. No guarantees to when you change sizes. get them in but we will When you send a PDF ad try! TomL to submit ads the fonts are embedded and news copy. email and will not change. Run tloury@att.net



**God Bless our Troops
Support Our Veterans
We Endorse The Constitution**

CHAIR CHAT

BY BRIGGITTE SMITH

Letter on the Salt Spring issue.

Letter was sent to the BCC on behalf of the MCREC, also this issue was on the agenda this week for the BCC, it was taken off the agenda for review in October (TBD).

When this issue was present in late April to the P&Z Commission the applicant rep, as well as the documentation provided by the County, mistakenly indicated the current water supply system had only on well. This was incorrect and likely influenced the Commission to approve the project or at least voided any questions of why not just upgrade the two existing well on USFS property.

There was a Community meeting on May 14th held by the County in Salt Springs, (I attended) as asked at the meeting there are no pending letters from the USFS that the current operation at Salt Spring is affecting their operation or any request to stop operating. The Community meeting was well run but highlighted the issues of concern and some key data gaps.

Just to be clear upgrading the wells and adding an additional storage tank to service this rural community is well-founded

project, the need to change well locations lacks any substantial rationale from a cost / technical basis.

- Residents very concerned that moving the wells closer to their private wells could impact their wells as well as the nearby lake.

- The new location as voiced by residents will reduce the size of the public park / ball field and create light pollution concerns.

- As indicated by County staff they did not cost the well upgrade at the current location for comparison to the +\$3M planning budget estimate for the new facility – there are no detailed costs estimates to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.

(The slated for late 2027/early 2028 will likely cost more than this unclassified planning estimate & does not include required well abandonment)

- The current wells are located on very small parcels within the Salt Spring USFS recreational facility (not sure of the size but it is large), there is room to add a second storage tank and work over the wells for upgrades from 10& 6 inch to two 12-inch wells.

Probably more info. that you want – attached is the letter sent by the MC Rep Exec Committee to the County Commissioners ahead of the meeting that was set for May 19th that is now delayed until Oct as well as pictures I took at the site.

James Tackett, REALTOR®

Call or Text: **352-620-5348**

Email: JTackRealtor@gmail.com

Website: JTackett.remaxpremier.net

RE/MAX
PREMIER REALTY



1910 SW 18th Court #100
Ocala, FL 34471

Each office independently owned and operated.



Businesses You Can Trust!



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

Come to a **FREE Breakfast Wednesday Mornings** and check out this **PREMIER networking group.** We meet at **Christopher Hall 1510 SE 3rd Ave, Ocala, FL**

Ocala Business Leaders
352-812-7799

– Taste Of –

SCOTLAND & IRELAND

CIE C-I-E TOURS

11 DAYS • 10 NIGHTS • 17 MEALS

October 16-26, 2026
\$4,495 PP (LAND ONLY)

Call to reserve while space is still available

Sue Fullerton
Walk Don't Run Travel
travel@walkdontrunllc.com | 352-400-1721 (cell)

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Blair Athol Distillery
- Blarney Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Dublin Canal Cruise with Dinner
- Edinburgh Castle
- Loch Ness Cruise
- Medieval Castle Banquet
- Scottish Evening
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- Skellig Experience
- Titanic Belfast

Select Business Associates Of Ocala

- Edward Jones (Nick Navetta)
- Health Insurance Licensed Benefit Specialist (Christine Calvert)
- Fair Tax (Elaine Maiellaro)
- Ocala Business Brokers (Connie Sivesind-Pendleton)
- Ocala Business Brokers (MacKenzie Sutton)
- Healthy Kangen Water (Ron Hipner)
- Beyond Business Contract, (PA Tania Bartolini)
- Prodigy Painting Services (Matt Jarrett)
- Life Insurance (Eddie Levin)
- Brombach Plumbing Service, Inc. (Robert BromBach)
- Walk Don't Run Travel (Sue Fullerton)
- Walt's Brake and More (Water Krumm Jr)
- YMCA of central Florida (Leda Perez)
- Computer Tech (MoE Methen)
- Mental Health Ora House (Vanessa Matthew)
- AI (Frank Turner)
- Financial Legacy Builders LLC (Kay Bogolin)
- TomL Publishing LLC (Tom Loury)
- Life Advocate Coach (Tamara Hutto)
- Staff Brokers VP of Sales (Chad Filley)

If you would like to know more about us call TomL 352-804-1223

FAIRTAX



An article from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation points out an aspect of the income/payroll tax

system that has helped allow it to continue to exist - that aspect is tax breaks. The article makes these points:

* The United States lost an estimated \$2.2 trillion in revenue through tax expenditures, commonly known as tax breaks, in 2025.

* According to the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), tax exemptions "include any reduction in income tax liability that results from special tax provisions or regulations that provide tax benefits to particular taxpayers".

* In 2025, the federal government collected \$3.1 trillion in individual and corporate taxes. At the same time, the tax code generated \$2.2 trillion in tax breaks - more than was spent on Social Security, Medicare, defense or any other program.

* The breaks exceeded the size of the \$1.8 trillion deficit in 2025 by \$444 billion.

* JCT estimated that in 2025, 84 percent of the tax benefits from deductions for state and local taxes, charitable contributions and mortgage interest went to taxpayers with incomes over \$250,000.

* The cost of tax expenditures increased by \$296 billion in 2025 over the last year, and JCT estimated that the cost will continue to grow over the next four years. In fact, the cost of tax expenditures grew 15 percent. That is more than the growth in:

- Social Security (8 percent)
- Medicare (14 percent)
- Medicaid and other health (7 percent)
- National defense (5 percent)

Each of the "tax expenditures - deductions" is designed to placate certain Americans and keep them from joining the millions of other Americans that want to eliminate the income/payroll tax system. One of the reasons the current tax system has been able to survive for so many years is because select groups have been paid off with these deductions and have been convinced that somehow they are paying less than others.

It's time to put the current income/payroll tax system out of business and replace it with a much fairer system - the FAIRtax.

For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

Criminal Probe into Beef Giants

Trump Ignites Criminal Probe into Beef Giants

From the internet

The DOJ has escalated its probe into meatpacking giants to criminal status, targeting potential price-fixing that squeezes ranchers while jacking up your grocery bill—what happens if they crack this cartel?

• DOJ Antitrust Division investigates Tyson Foods, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef for criminal antitrust violations in cattle contracts.

• Four firms control 85% of U.S. beef processing market, amid 50% beef price

surge.

• President Trump sparked the probe in November 2025 after accusing packers of manipulating rancher prices and inflating consumer costs.

• Wall Street Journal revealed criminal nature on April 21, 2026; no charges yet, DOJ silent.

• Texas Ag Commissioner Sid Miller hails it as long-overdue fairness for ranchers.

President Donald Trump accused meatpackers of manipulating cattle purchase prices in November 2025 and demanded DOJ action. Tyson Foods, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef face scrutiny for contracts tied to a pricing benchmark ranchers claim is rigged.

These firms control 85% of the slaughter of grain-fattened cattle. Beef prices surged nearly 50%, hitting consumers hard. Trump highlighted foreign ownership of JBS and National Beef, though U.S.-based Tyson and Cargill also dominate. This criminal probe marks a sharp turn from prior efforts.

Beef Industry Consolidation Enables Pricing Power

Four companies process 85% of U.S. retail beef, giving them leverage over ranchers and shoppers. Ranchers sell cattle under contracts referencing allegedly manipulated benchmarks. The Packers buy low, sell high to consumers amid price spikes.

A prior DOJ investigation from 2017 through Biden's term closed weeks before this launch, without charges. Critics point to excessive consolidation fostering anticompetitive deals.

Farmers are finally getting a break as per Trump meeting with Chi!

They made a deal on three or four of the major things the farmers were asking for. Soy beans were one.

E-ONE's Expansion

E-ONE's Expansion Reflects the Strength and Momentum of the Ocala Metro

Across downtown Ocala and throughout Marion County, there is a renewed sense of momentum and optimism surrounding the future of our community. From locally owned small businesses and restaurants to major employers and manufacturers continuing to invest in the region, growth is happening in ways that strengthen every part of our local economy.

The recent expansion of E-ONE is a strong example of that continued progress.

For decades, E-ONE has been a cornerstone employer in the Ocala Metro and a globally recognized manufacturer with deep roots in our community. Their decision to further invest and expand operations here speaks volumes about the confidence companies have in Ocala's workforce, business environment, and long-term potential.

Economic development is often viewed through the lens of attracting new businesses, but some of the most meaningful growth comes from companies that already call our community home choosing to stay, expand and build their future here. E-ONE's continued investment reflects the kind of sustainable growth that benefits the entire region: creating jobs, supporting families, and strengthening the

local economy.

That impact reaches far beyond the manufacturing sector alone. When companies grow, the ripple effects are felt across the community, from housing and retail to restaurants, hospitality and the small businesses that help make downtown Ocala such a vibrant destination. A strong local economy supports a thriving downtown, and a thriving downtown helps attract the talent, businesses and investment needed for continued success.

At the Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership, we are proud to support the businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders helping shape the future of the Ocala Metro. Projects like E-ONE's expansion reinforce the importance of collaboration between the private sector, local government, education, and workforce partners to ensure our region remains competitive and positioned for long-term success.

Ocala continues to evolve while maintaining the character and sense of community that make it such a special place to live and work. As we look toward the future, investments like this remind us that the momentum we are experiencing is not accidental, it is the result of businesses and community partners believing in what is possible here.

We are proud to celebrate E-ONE's continued growth and look forward to seeing the positive impact this expansion will have on our community for years to come.

And congratulations!!

Thank you,
Jessica Gilbert
Vice President, Foundation

Letter to Ran Paul

The Statute of limitation is up Monday May 18th I think? After that they can't be prosecuted! Ran Paul first let say that I disagree the way you vote. BUT you are right on with this investigation. I wrote about the COVID cover up during Obama's first term. That is why I became a Republican. I research all the information on the internet. Here is my recollection.

Fauci was put in charge of COVID research by Obama who agreed to send money to WAHAN Lab for research in China. He decided to send it to a church, the church would later change their name. The money would go through them to the Lab!

Some where there a Lab problem so Obama decided that he did not want to be involved OR COVER IT UP! Fauci did not agree and continued the program, whether Obama knew it after that I could not access.

I believe that they wanted to develop the virus to pandemic strength then develop a cure. How much would the cure be worth?? Before they could come up with a cure there was a Lab leak and the cover up even got stronger. Fauci got everyone involved, The scientist, our protective government shoving it under the rug. Millions died and someone needs to pay for this. When I wrote the story I did not believe the flack I got one was the church over seas that was getting the money. I think that was when they changed the name. I just write what I believe is the truth! Keep pressure on them and something will happen.

I am watching you question them now.

I live on a small farm in Dunnellon Florida and been on the same farm for 56 years. There is another pressing problem I will address later.

TomL Publishing LLC

NEED A BREAK?
Read the paper online!

tomlpublishing.com#
then click on
back-issues

Make your voice known!
tloury@att.net

Reilly Arts Center

OCALA, Fla. (May 14, 2026) – The Reilly Arts Center welcomes a variety of national and local artists for performances of rock, jazz, classical and more this summer. Unless otherwise indicated, events are held at the Reilly Arts Center located at 500 NE 9th St. Ocala, FL 34470. Tickets can be purchased at reillyartscenter.com or by contacting the Reilly Arts Center box office at (352) 351-1606. Box office hours are 9 AM – 1 PM, Tuesday through Friday. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Reilly Arts Center during box office hours.

June 2026

Reilly Noir: Longineu Parsons

Friday, June 5, 2026 at 7:30 PM | in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center

Tickets from \$33

Experience an unforgettable night with Dr. Longineu Parsons II, internationally acclaimed trumpeter, composer, and Professor of Music at Florida A&M University. Having performed with legends like Cab Calloway and Herbie Mann, Dr. Parsons brings decades of jazz excellence to the stage. Don't miss this extraordinary live performance celebrating a remarkable musical legacy.

Music of Mancini

Sunday, June 7, 2026 at 3 PM | AdventHealth Mainstage

Tickets from \$32

Join us for *Music of Mancini*, a captivating tribute celebrating the timeless music of Henry Mancini. From “Moon

River” and “The Pink Panther Theme” to favorites from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Peter Gunn*, this unforgettable performance brings Mancini's iconic melodies to life. Presented by Glenn Miller Productions, the team behind the world-famous Glenn Miller Orchestra, this spectacular evening is a must-see for music lovers of all ages!

BPM w/Brian Bromberg, Paul Brown, & Michael Paulo

Friday, June 12, 2026 at 7:30 PM | AdventHealth Mainstage

Tickets from \$33

Don't miss an extraordinary evening with Brian Bromberg, the Grammy®-nominated bassist and composer known for redefining modern jazz bass. With a career spanning over four decades, Bromberg has performed alongside legends like Stan Getz, Sting, and Herb Alpert while blending jazz, fusion, funk, and Latin influences into his signature sound. Experience the virtuosity, innovation, and soulful storytelling that have made Brian Bromberg one of the most celebrated bassists in the world.

FamFest

Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 10 AM | Tusawilla Park | Free Family Event

Join us for FamFest, a free community celebration of Faith & Family Month on June 13 at Tusawilla Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Bring the whole family for an uplifting day centered on faith, fellowship, worship, and community. Enjoy powerful live worship music from The RoomsLiving and Hallel One, inspiring testimonies, and a special keynote message from Micah Beckwith. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a mobile baptism experience as we celebrate life, faith, and the importance of strong families.

WindFM Rocks the Reilly: Pure Zeppelin – A Led Zeppelin Tribute

Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 7:30 PM | AdventHealth Mainstage

Tickets from \$25

Feel the thunder and raw power of Led Zeppelin brought to life by The Pure Zeppelin Experience. This band channels the majesty, grit, and musical genius of the legendary British rockers with spine-tingling accuracy. Expect powerhouse vocals, scorching guitar solos, and a stage presence that captures the magic of Zeppelin at their peak. It's not just a concert; it's a time machine back to rock's golden age.

Presented by WindFM

Blues in the Box: Frank Bang

Friday, June 19, 2026 at 7:30 PM | in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center

Tickets from \$33

Experience the electrifying sound of Frank Bang, a powerhouse guitarist whose soulful, gritty performances leave audiences wanting more. A former touring guitarist for Buddy Guy, Frank has shared the stage with legends like Eric Clapton and The Rolling Stones while carving out his own acclaimed career in the blues world. Don't miss this unforgettable night of raw energy, masterful guitar work, and authentic Chicago blues.

Dueling Pianos

Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 6 PM | in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center

Tickets from \$33

Grab a seat at a café table in the new NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center and enjoy dueling pianos, cocktails and an evening of fun with friends. Performing sing along classics of soft rock and pop that spans decades!

Dueling Pianos Uncensored

Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 9 PM | in the NOMA Black Box at the Reilly Arts Center

Tickets from \$33

Experience an electrifying night of musical mayhem with our new late-night dueling pianos show! Unleash your wild side on the dance floor as talented pianists engage in hilarious and unpredictable musical mash-ups while our cocktail servers dish up your favorite drinks. Get ready for a night of laughter, outrageous requests, and a high-energy, adults-only atmosphere that'll leave you begging for an encore.

U4ia – Celebrating the Music of U2

Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 7:30 PM | AdventHealth Mainstage

Tickets from \$35

Get ready for an unforgettable night with U4ia, a high energy tribute celebrating four decades of music from U2. Featuring musicians who have toured with artists like Aerosmith, Ringo Starr, and Alice Cooper, U4ia delivers a nostalgic concert experience filled with passion and incredible musicianship. Every performance also supports charitable causes, making this a night of great music that gives back!

Red, White, & OSO Blue: 250 Years

June 27-28, 2026 | 7:30 PM & 3 PM | AdventHealth Mainstage

Tickets from \$15

The Ocala Symphony pays tribute to our nation's 250th birthday including a world premiere work, Revolutionary Triptych, an orchestral triptych honoring three young

patriots from the Revolutionary war. As part of our annual tradition, we will conclude this special celebration of all things patriotic with a heartfelt salute to our Veterans!

Annual Wellness Visit



5 Questions to Ask at Your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

By Marisa Rogers, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, Oak Street Health

(NAPSI)—Your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit is an opportunity for you and your primary care provider to check in on your health and create a personalized plan for moving forward. A trusted relationship with your provider helps ensure you have support and guidance whenever health needs arise. To get the most out of your visit, here are 5 questions you can ask to help you maintain or improve your health:

Do any changes need to be made to my medications?

Be sure to review your current medications and supplements during your visit, especially if you're seeing a new provider. It's important to know whether you're taking the appropriate medications and if any refills will be needed. If you're having issues with your current medication(s), let your provider know. If you are prescribed a new medicine, ask if there are any side effects or interactions with your current medication(s). Make sure you're comfortable knowing how often and for how long you should take a particular medication.

What health screenings or tests do you recommend for me?

Depending on your age and other risk factors, your provider may recommend screening tests for conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis and colorectal cancer. If you're female, your provider may recommend screenings for breast and/or cervical cancer. For males, screening for prostate cancer may be recommended. Be sure to disclose if you have any personal or family history of certain cancers or diseases, as this may increase your risk.

What vaccinations do I need this year?

As people get older, their immune system gets weaker, making it harder for their body to fight off infections. This makes older adults more susceptible to illnesses such as the flu, pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and shingles. Complications from these conditions can lead to long-term illness, hospitalization and even death. Based on your lifestyle and other risk factors, your provider may recommend specific vaccines that could reduce your risk.

What can I do to stay independent as I age?

Aside from treating your health issues, your provider wants to make sure you have the information you need to improve your health and prevent other problems from

Continued page 12

Read TomL Newspapers Online, 24/7



Serving Communities in Marion, Lake & Sumter County Florida



tloury@att.net | 352-804-1223

Read Online:
TomLPublishing.com
VillageSpectator.com
OcalaDowntown.com
LadyLakeMagazine.com
SeniorsVoiceOfOcala.com

FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Cammack Announces FEMA Fire Grant Opportunities for Firefighters and First Responders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Kat Cammack announced that the Fiscal Year 2025 FEMA Assistance

to Firefighters Grants (AFG), Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant opportunities are now open for applications.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA have made \$648 million available nationwide to support firefighters and first responders through critical investments in equipment, staffing, training, and fire prevention initiatives.

The funding opportunities include:

\$291.6 million through the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program for personal protective equipment, emergency response vehicles, and responder health and wellness initiatives.

\$324 million through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program for firefighter salaries, recruitment, and training.

\$32.4 million through the Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) grant program for fire prevention research and firefighter safety, health, and wellness initiatives.

The FY 2025 AFG, SAFER and FP&S application periods open Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and close Monday, June 22, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Late submissions will not be accepted.

“As the wife of a firefighter, I understand the critical nature of these grants. As

demands on departments grow, staffing and resources haven't kept up,” said Rep. Cammack. “I am proud to continue helping our departments in securing these vital programs.”

From 2021 to 2026, Rep. Cammack helped secure over \$29 million for fire departments and first responders across Florida's Third Congressional District.

Eligible applicants can review the full funding opportunities for all three programs on Grants.gov. Before applying, FEMA encourages applicants to review the various resources published on FEMA.gov which will help them develop strong applications.

Cammack Introduces Bicameral Legislation Defending Parents Rights After Pregnancy Loss

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Rep. Kat Cammack (FL-03) introduced the Bereaved Parents Rights Act, legislation that ensures hospitals and freestanding birth centers provide clear information about the rights that grieving parents have regarding the cremation or burial of their miscarried or stillborn child.

“Losing a child you never got the chance to hold is a pain no parent can ever prepare for,” said Rep. Cammack. “In the most vulnerable moment of their lives, parents are too often failed by a broken system that leaves them to grieve and fight at the same time — that ends now. The Bereaved Parents Rights Act ensures parents have the information, guidance, options, and time they need to make deeply personal decisions. I'm proud to help lead this initiative to ensure grieving parents receive the dignity, resources, and support they deserve.”

Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS)

introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

“As an OB-GYN, I've sat with parents during some of the most heartbreaking moments of their lives after the loss of a child,” said Senator Marshall. “In those moments of grief, families should be met with compassion and clarity, not confusion about what happens next. No law can take away that pain, but we can ensure parents are informed of their rights and given the opportunity to make decisions for their child with the respect every family deserves.”

What the bill does:

Requires hospitals and freestanding birth centers to notify the parent(s) of a miscarried or stillborn child of their rights no later than 6 hours after the miscarriage or stillbirth, or when the parent(s) are discharged, whichever comes first. The parent(s) must be informed of their options for private burial, common burial, cremation, or disposal by the hospital or birth center, using a form which will be developed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Honors a parent's written election to arrange for burial or cremation by following the same disposition options available under State law for fetal deaths.

Allows any individual harmed by a violation of these requirements to file a civil lawsuit in federal court for relief.

Background:

State laws regarding the handling of fetal remains following a miscarriage or stillbirth vary significantly across the country.

Many states have no clear legal requirements regarding the disposition of remains following a miscarriage, leaving hospitals to rely on internal policies and procedures.

As a result, grieving parents can face confusion and unnecessary obstacles while seeking to bury or cremate their child.

Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries Tap Chairwoman Cammack and Chairwoman Leger Fernández to Lead Bipartisan Partnership to Combat Workplace Sexual Misconduct in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswomen Kat Cammack and Teresa Leger Fernández, along with Speaker Mike Johnson and Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, today announced a bipartisan partnership between the Republican Women's Caucus and Democratic Women's Caucus to combat workplace sexual misconduct in Congress. The two Caucuses will work together to identify reforms and solutions to make Congress a safer work environment for women and all survivors.

As the Chairs of the Republican and Democratic Women's Caucuses in the House, Rep. Cammack and Rep. Leger Fernández were designated by Speaker Mike Johnson and Leader Hakeem Jeffries respectively to lead this bipartisan effort. Next steps and any proposed reforms will be done in coordination with House Administration Committee Chairman Bryan Steil (WI-01) and Ranking Member Joe Morelle (NY-25), who will both participate in this effort in an ex-officio capacity.

“No woman — regardless of party, title, or position — should ever feel unsafe in her workplace. Period,” said Republican Women's Caucus Chair Kat Cammack (FL-03). “As Chair of the Republican Women's Caucus, I am proud to be leading a bipartisan effort alongside the Democratic Women's Caucus to take a hard look at the systems, reporting mechanisms, and workplace culture on Capitol Hill surrounding sexual harassment and assault. This effort has the support of Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries because this issue transcends politics. It's about dignity, accountability, and ensuring that every person who comes to work in the People's House is treated with respect and protected from abuse. The reality is that coming forward is extraordinarily difficult. Fear of retaliation, damage to careers, public scrutiny, and institutional pressure often silence victims long before justice has a chance to speak. We cannot claim to support women while ignoring the very real barriers that prevent them from reporting misconduct in the first place. Yes, bad actors must be held accountable and removed when warranted. But if we are serious about fixing this problem, we also have to confront the environment that allowed the behavior to occur, persist, or be concealed. Accountability cannot begin and end with punishment after the fact. It must include prevention, transparency, education, and systems people can actually trust. Congress should set the standard — not lag behind it. This effort is about restoring confidence that Capitol Hill is a workplace where professionalism, respect, and safety are non-negotiable. Every staffer, intern, employee, and Member deserves that.”

CEP OCALA METRO CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP
 MISSION: To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.
 CHAMBER OF THE YEAR 2020 WINNER

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

- ATTEND OUR EVENTS**: 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. Raise 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. Be seen!
- SHOP CEP SAVE MONEY**: Get discounts on office supplies, shipping, and more. Plus, shop partners for exclusive discounts. Start saving!
- MAKE MORE MONEY**: Build your brand. Expand your business. Referrals & recommendations pay. Grow your business!
- GET BUSINESS SUPPORT**: The CEP is your business concierge—meeting rooms, Certificates of Origin & history services. Added benefits!
- RECRUIT TOP TALENT**: List your job openings with the CEP to recruit your next staff member. Expand your team!
- GAIN AN ADVOCATE**: The CEP is a single, strong, unified voice that advocates politically for your business. Gain support!
- EXPAND YOUR NETWORK**: Join the CEP & add hundreds of professionals to your network. Increase visibility. 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?
 Chris Blankenship, Partner Relations Associate
 352.629.8051 Chris@OcalaCEP.com
 Visit us online at www.OcalaCEP.com

SEND US YOUR EVENTS
 tloury@att.net



Providing free year-round sports training, competition and health services to children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

PARTICIPATE • VOLUNTEER • COACH • DONATE • BE A FAN

specialolympicsflorida.org • (800) 322-HERO

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
352-690-7440



www.bgcofmarion.com

Ads sponsored by TomL Publishing

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

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



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



CALLING ALL Volunteers!

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

WE OFFER
COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS!

RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



HELP WITH VARIOUS
RETAIL TASKS
FLEXIBLE SHIFTS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT/8:30-4:30



HELP WITH VARIOUS
HABITAT EVENTS THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR INCLUDING THE
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL &
SOUTHEASTERN PRO RODEO

TYLER STARR
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
(352) 351-4663
TSTARR@HABITATOCALA.ORG

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT HABITATOCALA.ORG



Love is just a leash away!!

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

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

How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



Fuchsla 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 UTHMEIER



Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award Winner, Inaugural Moment of Valor Honoree

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier awarded the 2025 Attorney General's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year to Detective Eva Solis of the Clay County Sheriff's Office. The 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Ceremony honored the service of Detective Solis and 11 other brave officers who demonstrated great courage and selflessness while going above and beyond the call of duty last year.

"It is my honor to recognize Detective Solis as the 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and Officer Cody Poppell as our inaugural Moment of Valor Honoree," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Detective Solis' and Officer Poppell's commitment extends far beyond the call of duty. Detective Solis is responsible for the rescue and recovery of four human trafficking victims, and Officer Poppell stepped into the line of fire to save countless lives at FSU. I am proud to recognize their service to the Free State of Florida."

The recognition stems from the detective's exceptional investigative work on one of the most horrific child exploitation and human trafficking cases in Clay County Sheriff's Office history. A citizen discovered a thumb drive locked in a safe at an abandoned storage unit. The device was turned over to law enforcement,

where investigators discovered extensive material related to child sexual exploitation. Some of the key findings from the investigation include seven identified victims, one child rescued, three victims recovered, and more than two million CSAM files.

The dedication shown by Detective Solis led to the takedown of true predators, who are now in federal custody, and her work reflects the highest ideals of law enforcement and protecting those who cannot protect themselves—especially children.

Attorney General Uthmeier also recognized Florida State University Police Department Officer Cody Poppell as the inaugural Moment of Valor honoree. This newly established distinction acknowledges extraordinary courage and decisive action in the face of imminent danger.

Officer Poppell's heroic response during the April 17, 2025, active assailant incident on FSU campus exemplifies the highest values of law enforcement. Amid the chaos, Officer Poppell acted swiftly, riding his motorcycle over a sidewalk and onto campus to confront the threat head-on. He fired multiple shots, bringing the situation to an end and preventing even more tragedy. His actions were instrumental in protecting lives and maintaining public safety during a critical incident.

Other nominees for our 2025 Attorney General's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award include:

Detective Christopher Apple, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office;

Detective Brent Crawford, Port St. Lucie

- Police Department;
- Detective Jordan Duffy, Department of Financial Services;
- Corporal Carlos Estrada, Miccosukee Police Department;
- Detective Gedeus Frederick, North Miami Police Department;
- Officer Jessica Goodfellow, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission;
- Detective Lazaro Jimenez, West Miami Police Department;
- Inspector Kyle Jones, Florida Department of Law Enforcement;
- Officer Jonathan Lopez, Hialeah Police Department;
- Sergeant Julio Torres, Florida Highway Patrol, Troop L; and
- Detective Scott Williamson, Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

All nominees for the Attorney General's 2025 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award were previously named Officers of the Year by law enforcement agencies and associations.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Charges Florida Keys Predator who faces up to 100 Years in Prison

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that Jacob Rookey, 21, of Cudjoe Key, has been arrested and charged with 1 count of Promotion of Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM), one count of Possession of CSAM, one count of Transmission of CSAM by Electronic Device, two counts of Solicitation of CSAM, three counts of Generated Altered Sexual Images, three counts of Generated CSAM, and seven counts of Promotion of Animal Sexual Abuse Materials.

"Trading in material that involves the sexual exploitation of children and animals

is what keeps the sick market for this material alive," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "We will seek the maximum punishment under the law for predators who perpetuate this abusive trade."

"Preying on our community's most innocent and vulnerable will never be okay in Florida. FDLE will investigate these vile crimes and work with Attorney General James Uthmeier's statewide prosecutors to ensure you do not have the opportunity to victimize our children ever again," said FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass. "We urge parents and guardians to talk to your children and learn more about what they are putting online. Prevention is the best way to deter crime. Visit the Secure Florida website, which is maintained by the FDLE Cyber Crime and Telecommunications Bureau."

The investigation into Rookey was launched when the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that Rookey was possessing, viewing, and transmitting CSAM via Snapchat. BSO identified Rookey by his IP address and determined that jurisdiction belonged to FDLE Florida Keys.

FDLE obtained and executed subpoenas and search warrants that led to the discovery of communications in which Rookey was buying/selling CSAM and animal sexual abuse materials as well as soliciting minors to send him CSAM. In many of the communications, Rookey was posing as an underage girl.

Rookey was subsequently arrested. If convicted as charged, Rookey faces up to 100 years in the Florida Department of Corrections. The investigation is ongoing, and more charges may be filed as needed.

Your "SOURCE" for News, Talk, Music, Sports, Prizes, & More!

ON AIR

TUNE-IN

THE SOURCE
News-Talk-Music-Sports

96.3 FM **1370 AM**

WOCA

FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Signs House Bill 757 to Expand School Safety Measures at Colleges and Universities

MIAMI, Fla. — The 5th Annual Commissioner's Summit focused on school safety and

security, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 757 into law. This legislation further strengthens protections for students, faculty, and staff across Florida's educational institutions and builds on Florida's nation-leading school safety framework. The legislation expands key safety and security measures to the state's colleges and universities, reinforcing the state's commitment to maintaining safe learning environments at every level of education.

"We've made historic strides to implement school safety measures that are working to protect our schools. Today, I was proud to build on these efforts by signing HB 757, which enhances campus security requirements and best practices at our colleges and universities throughout Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We can have the highest academic standards, the strongest workforce programs, and the most innovative pathways for students, but must also continue our focus on the safety of our students and educators."

"Thanks to Governor Ron DeSantis' leadership, Florida has set the national standard for school safety, and House Bill 757 builds on that strong foundation by extending critical protections to our state colleges and universities," said Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas. "By extending the Guardian Program to higher education institutions, we are equipping campuses with additional tools to help safeguard students and

professors. Every student deserves the opportunity to learn in a safe and secure environment, and this legislation reinforces Florida's unwavering commitment to protect our schools."

Florida House Bill 757:

Expands participation in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to include Florida's public postsecondary institutions.

Strengthens protections near schools by creating a second-degree felony charge for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school.

Requires public postsecondary institutions to develop active assailant response plans, threat management teams to identify and address potential safety risks, and family reunification procedures in the event of an emergency.

The Guardian Program was created in 2018 through the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The program allows trained individuals to serve as armed guardians on school campuses to deter and respond to active assailant incidents. Under the program, guardians must undergo extensive screening and training requirements provided by local sheriffs' offices, including psychological evaluations, drug screenings, and at least 144 hours of rigorous training.

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has enhanced school safety efforts by investing:

Governor Ron DeSantis Unveils Statue Honoring "Father of the Constitution" James Madison in Florida's Madison County

MADISON, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis unveiled a new statue honoring President James Madison as part of Florida's continued celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Madison is known as the

"Father of the Constitution" because of his contributions during the American Revolution, and this statue honors his lasting legacy for both the nation and the state of Florida. With today's dedication, Florida has completed the placement of statues honoring every Founder represented by a Florida namesake county.

"We honor President James Madison for his integral role in the founding of our nation and the American acquisition of Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "As part of our commemoration of America's semiquincentennial this year, we have unveiled statues of great Americans throughout our state. With this new statue in Madison County, we now have statues of our Founding Fathers in every Florida county that is named for a founder. These statues symbolize Florida's commitment to celebrating our nation's history and the great men who laid the foundation for the American experiment."

"President Madison understood the importance of long-term thinking and responsible governance," said Florida DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. "That same principle guides our work today as we protect Florida's natural resources and support responsible growth across the state."

"This statue stands as a powerful tribute to the brilliance of James Madison's statecraft and highlights his often-overlooked role in bringing Florida into the United States," said Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd. "It's a legacy reminding us that individual liberty rests on limited government, personal responsibility, and a deep respect for the rule of law—ideas we still value in Florida."

"As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of our founding, it is particularly fitting that the State of Florida today is honoring James Madison, the chief architect of the U.S. Constitution and our nation's fourth president," said Dr. J. Robert McClure III, President and CEO of the James Madison Institute. "Madison authored many of the Federalist Papers that led to the ratification of the Constitution and

championed the passage of the Bill of Rights. The James Madison Institute is honored to have been included in the ceremony unveiling the statue of our namesake."

Born in Virginia in 1751, James Madison emerged as one of the most influential political thinkers of the founding generation. Though he did not serve on the battlefield, his contributions in government proved indispensable to the revolutionary cause. He played the leading role in organizing the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and introduced the Virginia Plan, which became the blueprint for the United States Constitution. His authorship of key essays in The Federalist Papers—through which he articulated the principles of federalism, checks and balances, and representative government—and his leadership in securing the Bill of Rights earned him the title "Father of the Constitution."

Madison later served as a close advisor to President George Washington in Congress and as Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson, helping oversee transformative events such as the Louisiana Purchase. As America's fourth president, he led the nation through the War of 1812 and helped solidify the United States as an enduring independent republic.

Madison's legacy is also deeply connected to Florida's history. During his presidency, he authorized the annexation of West Florida in 1810 and supported efforts to bring East Florida under American control, laying critical groundwork for Florida's eventual acquisition and path to statehood. In recognition of his role, Madison County was named in his honor in 1827.

About America 250 Florida

America 250 Florida marks the state's official observance of America's semiquincentennial and will host and help sponsor special events throughout the year for Floridians from all corners of the state to enjoy. Floridians can find information on events, exhibits, heritage sites, and participation opportunities at America250FL.com, the state's official hub for the Semiquincentennial celebration.



Bee's Knees!

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

Ocala **4sale**.com

Marion County's Internet Marketplace

Wellness Visit

Continued from page 7
occurring. Ask about any changes you should make in your diet, which physical activities you can do and what habits you should start or stop. As you age, maintaining mobility is essential for preserving independence and preventing injury. Mental health also plays an important role in influencing your cognitive function and quality of life. Strong social connections help reduce isolation and are linked to longer, healthier lives.

Will I need a follow-up exam sooner than one year?

Ask your provider's opinion on the best follow-up schedule for you. Based on your current health or risk factors, your provider

may want to see you sooner or more frequently than once a year. Also, be sure to ask what you should do in the event of having a sudden illness or symptoms. Your provider may be able to see you for urgent visits, allowing you to avoid the emergency room for minor illnesses.

At Oak Street Health, we deliver personalized, preventive primary care through a model that was created to meet the unique needs of older adults. Our providers get to know you by listening to you and understanding your history and goals. We plan your health journey together to help you get more from the years ahead. By staying on top of health concerns, we help our patients stay healthy and live life more fully.

To find an Oak Street Health location nearby, visit oakstreethealth.com/locations



Support the heART of our community.
mcaocala.org



OCALA
Recreation and Parks

SENIOR Bingo

**Eighth Ave Adult Activity Center
830 NE Eighth Ave.**

Join us for an engaging game of BINGO. This interactive activity offers adults a chance to socialize, enhance hand-eye coordination, boost cognitive abilities, and improve physical health.

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Year-Round | 1 - 2:30 p.m.
Ages 50+ | \$2 in coins**

More Information: 352-401-6980 | ocalafl.gov/recpark



**Want to Kill the Death Tax?
Only the FAIRtax can
Pull the Trigger!**

Want to learn more?
Go to: FLfairtax.org or Call 352-804-0007

FAIR TAX
FL FAIR TAX EDUCATIONAL ASSN

Testament
my wish



LOURY'S

LAND SERVICES LLC

352-427-2423

LAND CLEARING - SITE PREP - DRIVEWAYS
DEMO - DEBRIS REMOVAL - BUSH HOGGING
FREE ESTIMATES

MARION - CITRUS - LEVY



Dunnellon
COFFEE CO

COFFEE - BREAKFAST - LUNCH - COMMUNITY
11223 N WILLIAMS ST SUITE A, DUNNELLON, FL