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Take Me Home!



Light up Lady Lake is an annual Christmas event. The grounds and the cabin where the Chamber is housed is lit up with thousands of lights. They usually have several speakers and hundreds of spectators. It's a great event and something to see!

Gov. Scott Suspends Supervisor of Elections

Gov. Scott Suspends Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes from Office, Appoints Replacement

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Following widespread issues with voting in Broward County, Governor Rick Scott today issued Executive Order 18-342 to immediately suspend Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes from office for misfeasance, incompetence and neglect of duty. The authority for the Governor to take this action is outlined in Article IV Section 7 of the Florida Constitution. The Governor has appointed Peter Antonacci to serve as Supervisor of Elections in Broward County. Mr. Antonacci will serve for the remainder of the term until a replacement can be chosen by voters in November 2020. During the 2018 General Election, according to numerous media reports, Broward County election officials missed deadlines, lost ballots and couldn't report basic information to the public, which resulted in multiple violations of Florida law. This follows multiple documented instances throughout Ms. Snipes' term where Florida laws were broken including posting election results before polls closed and authorizing the improper destruction of ballots.

Governor Scott said, "Every eligible voter in Florida deserves their vote to be counted and should have confidence in Florida's

elections process. After a series of inexcusable actions, it's clear that there needs to be an immediate change in Broward County and taxpayers should no longer be burdened by paying a salary for a Supervisor of Elections who has already announced resignation. I know that Pete will be solely focused on running free and fair elections, will not be running for election and will bring order and integrity back to this office."

Peter Antonacci currently serves as the President and CEO of Enterprise Florida. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the South Florida Water Management District and as General Counsel for the Governor. Previously, Mr. Antonacci served as State Attorney in Palm Beach County. He has also served as a governing board member of the Northwest Florida Water Management District, a member of the Florida Ethics Commission, Statewide Prosecutor of Florida and Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Antonacci has also served on multiple Judicial Nominating Commissions.

Raised in Hialeah, Mr. Antonacci attended Hialeah High School and Miami Dade College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University as well as a Juris Doctorate from Florida State University College of Law.



This is a photo of Charlie. Charlie came by to see me at my table at the Shop Lady Lake Expo. He seemed to like the attention and was actually posing for the camera. Here he is standing on top of my newspapers posing.

A True Christmas Story

By TomL

I was at a business meeting where everyone was asked to tell about favorite Christmas. I thought how can I tell my story in short form. I told it and everyone thought it was great but a lot was left out so I decided to write about it and include more of the life story. This is my true Christmas story!

As a little kid we ran the neighborhood barefoot. I was about seven years old. My friend and I were playing by the railroad tracks about two blocks from home. There were some dirt mounds and holes in the ground. We were jumping off the mounds and sliding into the holes, having a great time. Only this one time I landed on a broken beer bottle and it cut my tendon almost completely in half. When I could see, it I knew it was bad. I told my friend to go get help. A nearby house was the home of a fireman. He came and got me and rendered first aid. He picked me up, put me in his personal truck and rushed me to the clinic in the next nearby town for emergency treatment.

Lucky for me the fireman was there to take me. My Grandmother was taking care of my brother, sister and I. She did not drive and there was no car.

The Clinic Doctor was great. There was no pain to speak of. I was really scared. The Doctor said they got my tendon just in time to save the use of my leg. I would have to stay off my foot for six to eight weeks; it was longer than that at the end. I injured myself at the beginning of Christmas break. Now I'm on crutches. I remember worrying about not getting to go to see Santa Claus and the Fire

Truck. Anyway the day of the parade, late afternoon I was told I could not go. I was torn up over it. My brother and sister went and I sat next to the slide up window of the old frame house so I could hear the Fire Engine that Santa Claus was on. The first time I heard it the sound was dim but as the moments went by it got louder and louder and louder until I could see the flashing lights of the Fire Truck coming up my road. We were two blocks off the normal parade route. Yes Santa came to my house, got off the Fire Truck, came in, gave me a hug, a candy cane and a wink. It was kind of strange at the time that Santa looked a little like the fireman who saved me, but of course that was impossible! I recovered mostly. It took longer than I wanted it to, but to this day I have two scares, one on the skin and one on the tendon.

Now fast forward. I'm about sixteen years old. There was a rope swing that all the kids loved to swing out and drop into the water (the water was called whiskey creek). This one day the son of the fireman was at the swing and we were all having fun - about seven of us. When here come three young girls in a speed boat. The fireman's son swung out and dropped in front of the boat. They ran over him. I heard a loud thunk sound. The boat went over him, narrowly missing him with the prop but he was knocked out cold and under water. I was the first one to get to him, holding his head up out of the water and starting to drag him toward the bank then another person appeared and assisted me. He started

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**Chief
McKinstry
Resigns!
See page 2**

AS I SEE IT

January 1st 2019 - Happy New Year!

I'm not a big fan of lame-jokes, but why not start 2019 with a chuckle (or maybe a laugh?)

-Is your cup half-full or half-empty? - With a half-cup of hot toddy – Who cares?

-They say 'Always start the New Year off on the right foot'. But I'm left-footed!

-Is it a 'New Year' if it's just the same as the last one?

-It's always dumb to lie to yourself – But New Year's resolutions are the exception.

-Like this one:- "I resolve to be a better person this year." (Not really a 'lie' more like a 'joke').

-As they say, "A New Year's resolution goes in one year and out the other".

-And "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions".

-This New Year's 'The Donald' resolved to be even more opinionated. After all, that's the only thing he's really good at.

-Why not resolve to break your New Year's resolutions? That way success is guaranteed!

-New Year's was invented by Calendar Companies so you have to buy new one every year.

-My New Year's resolution is to help all my friends gain ten pounds so I look skinnier.

-Why resolve to quit all your bad habits? After all, nobody likes a quitter!

-Why do they drop that ball in Times Square? We don't need to be reminded of what we did last year!

-If you resolve to read more, just click 'subtitles' on your TV.

-An optimist expects 2019 to be even better than 2018. But a pessimist knows it will be even worse.

-New Year's Eve at the clubhouse: The host asked the members to write down the one thing they would change in the coming year. Some wrote "My putter". Others wrote "My driver". A few wrote "My spouse"!

-If you were born on October 1st, you know how your parents celebrated New Years!

-With the New Year upon us, why think about the evils of drinking? Easier to give up the stress of thinking!

- "How did you celebrate the New Year last night?" "I don't remember, so I must have had a good time!"

-His New Year's Resolution was always to move out of his parents' home. You'd think after 30 years, he'd try something new!

-He asked 'Sindrella' if she would go out on New Years Eve?" She said, "Yes, but we have to be in bed by midnight!"

-Speeder to traffic cop= "Do you know who my father is?" Cop = "Your mother didn't tell you?"

-My friends all laughed when I said I wanted to be a comedian. But they're not laughing now!

-Two seniors went on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Never again.

-What's orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot?**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Attorney General Pam Bondi

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



This week, working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, we arrested nine individuals on numerous felony and misdemeanor charges associated with the illegal baiting, taking and molestation of black bears by use of dogs for commercial and recreational purposes.

According to the year-long investigation, the defendants lured black bears by placing drums of dog food, doughnuts, pastries and peanut butter in various areas throughout Baker, Flagler, Marion and Union counties. The defendants used large packs of dogs to chase bears up trees. They would then beat the trees, some higher than 50 feet, causing bears to fall to the ground, where they would force dogs to maul the bears.

Following some of the attacks, the defendants posted numerous videos of the acts on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. In some of the videos, defendants can be seen forcing the bears to a waiting pack of approximately a dozen dogs that then repeatedly bit the bears. None of the individuals involved tried to call off the dogs or stop the attacks. My Office of Statewide Prosecution obtained warrants for social media accounts where the defendants posted these disgusting videos.

Not only were their actions gruesome and repulsive, they were recorded and posted to social media for their amusement. I doubt they are laughing any longer now that they have been arrested for serious crimes.

I want to thank FWC and my Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Kelly McKnight and Diane Croff for their great work on this case.

Attorney General Bondi, Other State Attorneys General and Federal Government Announce \$625 Million Settlement

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi today announced a \$625 million multistate and federal settlement with a major pharmaceutical distributor. The settlement resolves allegations that AmerisourceBergen Corporations introduced adulterated drugs into interstate commerce. As a result, ABC, a Delaware corporation headquartered in Chesterbrook, Pennsylvania, will pay the states and the federal government \$625 million dollars—including nearly \$100 million going directly the state Medicaid programs.

As part of the massive national litigation, ABC subsidiary AmerisourceBergen Specialty Group pled guilty to illegally distributing misbranded drugs in September 2017. ABSG is the parent entity for companies in the specialty pharmaceutical market, including biotechnology and oncology, in addition to pharmaceutical

manufacturers and providers. ABSG agreed to pay \$260 million in criminal fines and forfeitures.

The national federal and state civil settlement resolves allegations concerning conduct of a purported pharmacy ABSG opened in Dothan, Alabama named Medical Initiatives, Inc. MII pooled vials of oncology supportive care drugs used during chemotherapy to create Pre-filled Syringes to sell to practitioners. The drugs involved in the scheme include Aloxi®, Anzemet®, Kytril®, Neupogen®, Procrit®, as well as the generic version of Kytril®. The investigation revealed that MII was not a pharmacy, but a repackager, and as such, required to apply for a New Drug Application for the PFS. To prepare the PFS, MII broke the seal of the FDA-approved drug vials and repackaged them into plastic syringes that allowed MII to sell the excess drug product in the vials, known as overfill. The PFS, that were prepared in an unsterile environment and often contained particles of foreign matter, were then shipped to providers through another branch of ABSG, Oncology Supply Company.

MII was neither a pharmacy in producing and selling the PFS nor did it comply with pharmacy regulations in any state where it was licensed. Additionally, since there was no new NDA, the drugs were unapproved by the FDA and adulterated, therefore not eligible for reimbursement by government healthcare programs. The civil settlement also resolves double billing for the same vial of drug as a result of using the overfill drug product and unlawful kickbacks provided to physicians to induce them to purchase Procrit® in PFS rather than vials.

The investigation resulted from three qui tam actions originally filed in 2010, 2012 and 2014 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York under the federal False Claims Act and various state false claims statutes. As part of the settlement Florida will receive nearly five million dollars in restitution and other recoveries.

A National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units Team participated in the investigation and conducted the settlement negotiations with ABC on behalf of the states. The Team included representatives from the Offices of the Attorneys General for the states of California, Florida, Illinois, New York and Oregon.

Attorney General Bondi Co-Leads Bipartisan Coalition of Attorneys General Supporting Criminal Justice Reform

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Pam Bondi is co-leading a bipartisan group of 38 state attorneys general supporting criminal justice reform in the federal prison system. Today, the coalition sent a letter, co-authored by Attorney General Bondi, to Congress asking legislative leaders to fully consider criminal justice reforms like those contained in the First Step Act.

"I am proud to co-sponsor this letter supporting a true bipartisan compromise concerning much needed prison reform in our country. The First Step Act will keep so many individuals from returning to prison and help them lead productive lives," said

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Chief McKinstry Resigns

Lady Lake Residents Are Shocked!

By TomL

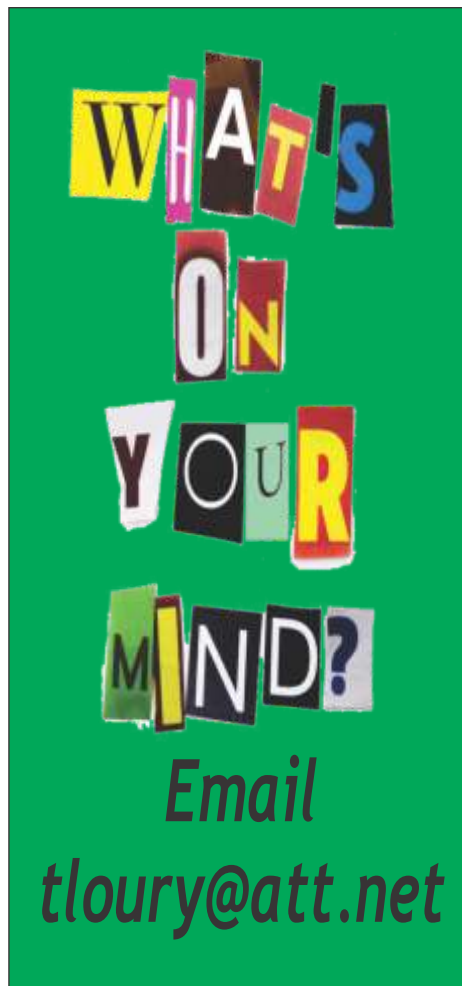
Town people are shocked. Many are asking why? Why would the Chief of police of seven years walk in one day and hand in his resignation and walk out? No notice! No reason! I can't print a rumor and don't believe in them, but if someone out there has some facts I would like to hear them.

Apparently the Town Manager Chris Kollgart doesn't know why. I ask by email and she said and I quote, "Chief McKinstry left. I think he just needed a new challenge. He did a lot of good for the Town and I know he will be missed." Kollgart has named Capt. Robert Tempesta as acting Chief. I'm not finished with this story!

According to the phone calls I have gotten he will be missed. I certainly will miss him. He has done a column in the newspaper for years. Let's hope the Town of Lady Lake finds out why the Chief left so they can keep it from happening with the next Chief! We lost a good one!

That makes three local Chiefs leaving their post in the immediate area. I know the reason for two of them!

- Wildwood Police Chief Paul Valentino
- Fruitland Park Police Chief Micheal Fewless
- Lady Lake Police Chief Chris McKinstry



Bringing Families Together



Bringing Families Together Around The World

(NAPSI)—With all the sad stories of conflict and desperation from around the world, it can be heartening to hear of loved ones reunited.

Here are just two of the happy examples:

Lydia spent months wondering if her daughter Odette was alive. Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo forced Lydia to seek asylum in the U.S., leaving her far away from her

family and with a heavy heart. With the help of the Red Cross, Lydia located her daughter and sent her a message through the Restoring Family Links (RFL) program. Odette responded to her mom—she was indeed alive. “I don't know how the Red Cross managed to connect me with someone who I thought was dead. There was no other way for me to talk to her. There was no other way.”

Conflict in Burundi forced Fidele to flee and lose touch with his loved ones, including his father. After living in Tucson, Arizona, for some time, he connected with the Red Cross RFL program to open up a search for his father to help give him peace of mind. After months of searching, Fidele finally

received the welcome message: His father was alive and well.

Armed conflict, international disasters and migration leave millions of people around the globe in urgent need of humanitarian assistance every year. As the world's largest humanitarian network, Red Cross and Red Crescent teams help reconnect families separated by international crises.

How It Works

Red Cross Restoring Family Links services are free and confidential and help reconnect loved ones when:

1. Families are separated as a result of disaster, migration or other humanitarian emergency.

2. Families have already tried normal channels of communication to reconnect.

3. The family member making the inquiry is able to provide essential information on the sought person.

4. The family member making the inquiry is a relative who had been in direct contact with the sought person before the crisis occurred.

Learn More

For more info, to help the Red Cross or to ask for help, go to

www.redcross.org/international.

5 Biggest Myths About Diabetes



(NAPSI)—For 30 million Americans, diabetes is an everyday reality. Diabetes can affect every decision, including what they eat, wear and do. Yet the 24/7 management of diabetes is often misunderstood, carrying a social burden, as too many Americans wrongfully assume the disease is the result of poor choices.

The American Diabetes Association is setting the record straight. Here's what's real and what's not when it comes to diabetes:

Myth: Being overweight causes diabetes.

Fact: Being overweight is a risk factor for developing type 2 diabetes but it's not the only one. Family history, ethnicity and age also play a significant role. In fact, people with type 2 diabetes are often at a normal weight or only moderately overweight.

Myth: Diabetes is caused by eating sugar.

Fact: Type 1 diabetes is a disease, in which the immune system attacks insulin-producing beta cells. Type 2 diabetes is caused by the body's inability to use the insulin it produces and progresses so that less insulin is produced over time. Eating sugar doesn't cause either type, though a diet high in calories can contribute to weight gain, which increases one's risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Myth: Taking insulin means you have failed to manage your diabetes properly.

Fact: Type 2 diabetes is a progressive disease. Over time, the body gradually produces less and less of its own insulin to keep blood glucose levels in a healthy range, so insulin is needed. People with type 1 diabetes require insulin to survive.

Myth: People with diabetes need to eat special foods and can't eat sweets.

Fact: A healthy meal plan for people with diabetes is generally the same as a healthy

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& FLAG POLES

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Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders, Co-Founder and President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



A Veteran at work!

Once in a while I like to help give a business a boost by highlighting the owner with a picture or some comments. This month's spotlight is on George Marshal owner of

SIGNS44. I have known George for many years, selling his flags as publisher of the newspapers I believe we should do business with guys like this. He has always been a patriot and likes to be a part of the local business scene. Let me list what I like about George.

You can count on what he says!

He believes in buying USA supplies!

These Flags are made in America. Many of the Flags are made by Veterans!

The Flagpoles are made in USA!

The man that sets up the flag pole is a Veteran!

So thank you for helping the Veterans! And thank you for helping a veteran!

Shop at Signs44 on Hwy 441 in downtown Lady Lake. See the ad in this paper!

Not a good thing!

Have you ever heard: "I run my business by hearsay or word of mouth"?

Here is what experts say: Not advertising is like a person that stops the clock to save time??? The business that considers itself immune to the necessity for ADVERTISING sooner or later finds itself immune to business.

Word of mouth is good because it shows a string of satisfied customers but there should be an ad mix in there somewhere.

A good sign!

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Following widespread issues with voting in Broward County, Governor Rick Scott issued [Executive Order 18-342](#) to immediately suspend Supervisor of Elections Brenda Snipes from office for misfeasance, incompetence and neglect of duty.

A Bad sign!

The Muller team has forced Flynn into a guilty plea to stop them from investigating his son and stop the investigation into himself. Flynn is not a rich man. He is a war hero, spent 32 years serving this country and was awarded the Silver Star for some of his acts of heroism. He does not have enough money for big time legal fees. He has sold his house to raise money and at some point you just want it to stop. I have even seen this process at work in this area. Just run up legal fees until the defendant just wants it to stop and the defendant folds.

Not a good thing!

The US Government is prosecuting Major Mathew Golsteyn for murder in Afghanistan for killing a bomb maker. The bomb maker was taken into custody and released because the paper work that should have been filled out was not done (remember this is in a war zone). First what are we doing filling out paper work in a war zone. Here is how it went down. We ask the Afghanistan people in a villages to give us information about who the enemy is? They trust us! Our government says Oops! Someone did not fill out the proper papers and they released the enemy. They go back and kill the villagers that turned them in. The

bomb maker killed a number of people including two of Golsteyn's friends and informants. He was found in an Afghanistan village and was killed. Now the US government is charging him for murder. War is not a game! Not where you document things on paper. Give this man justice!

A Good sign!

A federal Judge that is supposed to sentence Flynn has requested information proving Flynn lied. Information and documents proving the extent of involvement and is taking a good look at the case at the urging of Flynn's attorneys. Flynn probably has a cleaner record than Mueller!

A Good Thing!

My Nephew who is in the military received a package from people in The Villages. It contained some very important items needed and unavailable in the region. In with those items was the Village Spectator, one of our papers. He was in Africa! What a circulation claim, worldwide?

Many of the papers will be reflecting on 2018. I want to give it a month extra to think about it. If there is something you want me to add email me at tloury@att.net Let's start the year out right and be positive!

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for February

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, January 16th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, January 23rd

Lady Lake Magazine/Village Spectator

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Winning Attitudes



by Tom Charlier

(NAPSI)—Amid thousands of other runners at the St. Jude Memphis Marathon, James Eversull was determined to build on his story, though he has no memory of it.

It began in 1964, when Eversull, all of a year and a half old, became a patient at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which had opened just two years earlier. Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia—a virtual death sentence back then with a survival rate of only 4 percent—he was part of a group receiving a treatment regimen involving chemotherapy and radiation.

“They gave it to five of us, and I was the only survivor,” said the now-55-year-old Texan, who cites the experience as a reason for running the full marathon benefiting St. Jude. “Anything I can do to help kids is something I want to do. God saved me for a reason.”

While Eversull was among the oldest St. Jude survivors running, 8-year-olds Kinlee Johnson and Alexander Bolding are new to their journey. They became best friends a year ago while undergoing treatment for medulloblastoma, a type of brain tumor.

“We're so excited to be part of this,” Kinlee's mom, Nicole Johnson, said. “St. Jude has been the biggest blessing for me, because they saved my daughter's life.”

“They're a package deal,” Alexander's mom, Jillian Bolding, said. Because they used wheelchairs part of the way on the 5K, the two youngsters were the first

participants out on the course. Diagnosed last November, Kinlee underwent 30 rounds of proton therapy at St. Jude, which has the world's only proton therapy center dedicated just to children, and four months of chemo to treat her brain tumor. Like Alexander, she's finished treatment but is struggling to get stronger.

“I'm bringing her wheelchair, but she's going to walk as much as her little heart will let her,” Kinlee's mom said. “She still has a long road ahead of her.”

Along that road, she'll find Eversull, who came to St. Jude decades earlier and completed his fifth marathon.

Long after his treatment ended, Eversull became one of the first to sign up for the St. Jude LIFE Study, which tracks the health of childhood cancer survivors to help them deal with further problems and provides researchers insight into the late effects of treatment.

“It's good to help other kids,” he said.

Among the record 26,000 runners, nearly 1,000 entrants were St. Jude patients or family members and friends. Many wore an armband—yellow for those in treatment or survivors and purple to honor deceased patients.

The involvement of patients and their families is one of the distinguishing components of the annual St. Jude race. Another is the jaunt that runners take through the hospital's 65-acre campus, where staff, caregivers and patients, many

of them in wheelchairs, line the course waving pom-poms and signs and ringing cowbells.

The race is the largest single-day fundraiser for St. Jude, generating some \$11.2 million. The money helps St. Jude treat children with cancer and other catastrophic childhood diseases for which families never receive a bill for treatment, travel, housing or food, and it supports research that has helped boost survival rates for childhood cancer from 20 percent when St. Jude opened in 1962 to 80 percent today.

This year's participants came from 45 states and six countries. Some 6,500 were “St. Jude Heroes,” meaning they raised money on their own for the race.

Tom Charlier is a writer for ALSAC, the fund-raising and awareness organization for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He previously worked as a journalist in Memphis for more than 25 years.

Government Shut Down

Spoken on the internet

- One janitor that works for the State Department worries about paying bills.
- One person laid off had lunch with others that were laid off.
- One person considered growing a shutdown beard.
- One said tweet Trump about shutdown (pro or con).
- One Park Ranger's wife says they have two children and don't know when they will get their next check.
- One TSA employee and family going without.
- One Laid off person said “I was depending on this next pay check to make my car payment.”
- One person said Government Contract workers will not get paid.
- One person said “I just had a baby and am not working and my husband has been laid off.”
- One person went hiking in a National Forest. The honor pay box was covered.
- One person said they lost income including holiday pay.
- One person said, “It's so depressing I can't make my mortgage payment.”
- One person said “I will continue to work without pay, my job is important to the visitors.”
- One person said can't review govt

clinical guidelines or search PubMed.

- One person said can't get veterans seen non-emergency.
- One person said can't get students' GI Bill money.
- One person said can't get passports updated.
- One person said can't submit or receive research grants.

Many more concerns, but it looks to be a real important issue.

Let's just stop calling it a wall and call it a barrier and let's send enough medically trained personnel to the border for health screening and medical treatment.



WHAT SAY YOU?

Publisher's Notes

Continued from page 4

Heart Breaking!

A friend sent a video paying forward! A young boy found a \$20 dollar bill in the parking lot going into Cracker Barrel. He thought hard about what to spend it on. He saw a soldier with his family in the restaurant. Here is what he did. He wrote the soldier a note saying he want to pay \$20 for his meal, thanking him for his service. The boy explained that his daddy was a soldier too. He is in heaven now! The boy's mother said the boy wanted to see his father. She drove him to the cemetery. He wanted to go alone. Mom took a picture from the car. You could see the two little lone footprints going to the grave site. That is what freedom cost so don't ever forget those who serve and their families.

My question of the month? What is Pam Bondi going to do next year? FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JOB? Remember you heard it here!

TomL



Print Classifieds Still Work!

See page 15 for Classifieds.

Email us today to place your ad:

Author Unknown

A friend sent me this poem and I thought it worth printing.

I have a list of people
All written in a book -
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look.

And that is when I realize
That those names are all a part -
Not of the book they're written in
But of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path some time -
And in that meeting they've become
A treasured friend of mine.

And once you've met some people
The years can not erase -
The memory of a pleasant word
Or of a friendly face.

So when I send a note or email
That is addressed to you -
It's because you're on that 'Special list'
Of folk that I'm indebted to.

And you are one of several folk
In times past that I've met -
And happen to be one of those
I don't want ever to forget.

And whether I have known you
For many years or few -
In some way you have had a part
In shaping things I do.

So this, the Spirit of Christmas
That forever still endures -
May it leave its richest blessing
In the hearts of you and yours!

Author Unknown

Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,

Quick update for you. Constituent service remains our number one priority. Our office has three staff members located in Tallahassee, Lake County, and Marion County that are always

ready to serve you and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. I am your Senator, and I work for you. As always, I am available to meet with you personally, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office to schedule an appointment.

This past month, we completed our first week of committee meetings (along with some Senator training sessions) and we also received our assignments from Senate President Galvano. I am happy to report that your Senator was named Chairman of the Committee on Ethics and Elections. With the passage of Amendment 4 and the elections debacle in Broward and Palm Beach counties, we anticipate that this committee chairmanship will allow us to play a key role in protecting the integrity of Florida's elections. I am committed to defending our elections process by making it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

Your Senator was also assigned to the full Education committee, under Senator Manny Diaz, as well as the Appropriations

Subcommittee on Education, under Senator Stargel. This year, unlike the previous two, we will see much more emphasis placed on career and technical education. I am very excited to be a part of these two committees that will shape this policy moving forward and I am particularly looking forward to the work that our team will do under the leadership of Chairs Diaz and Stargel.

Along with those three committees, your Senator was also assigned to the Committee's on Finance and Tax, Health Policy, Judiciary, and the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee. Each of these committees all have great leadership and good teams in place. President Galvano has a real eye for good, talented people and he is doing an excellent job utilizing that talent. Majority Leader, Kathleen Passidomo, is our team leader and we couldn't be happier to serve with a woman of her intelligence and ability.

Thank you for sending me, and thank you for letting me serve you in the Florida Senate.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley



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Tom Loury
Publisher

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Genealogical Society

Marion County Genealogical Society Special Presentation

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 3 PM in the Marion County Public Library, Room C, 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. We are pleased to present Family Tree Maker on Tour, an interactive presentation with Mark Olsen. Mark will answer questions about Family Tree Maker, North America's most popular family tree software, and products will be available for purchase at special show pricing. For further information, go to www.mcgsocala.org (or contact Joel Swanson at (352) 897-0840 or president@mcgsocala.org).

Florida Governor Scott



ORLANDO, Fla.

Today, at Wyndham Destinations headquarters in Orlando, Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida businesses have created more than 1.67 million private-sector jobs since December 2010, including 23,000 private-sector jobs in November. This brings Florida's unemployment rate down to 3.3 percent, a 12-year low. Florida's unemployment rate of 3.3 percent

represents a drop of 7.5 percentage points since December 2010; this drop is faster than the national decline of 5.6 percentage points. This is while 116,000 people entered Florida's labor force, a growth of 1.1 percent in the past year. Florida's annual job growth rate of 3.3 percent continues to exceed the nation's rate of 1.9 percent.

To view the November 2018 employment data visit www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-press-releases/monthly-press-releases.

Gov. Scott: Florida's Graduation Rate Hits All-Time High

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida's high school graduation rate has reached a 15-year high according to data

released today by the Florida Department of Education. For the 2017-18 school year, Florida's statewide graduation rate rose to 86.1 percent, an increase of 3.8 percentage points over last year and 17.1 since the school year before Governor Scott took office.

Governor Scott said, "I am proud to announce that Florida's high school graduation rate has once again risen and has reached an all-time high. Access to quality public education played a critical role in my life, and as a father and grandfather, it has always been important to me that every Florida student has the opportunity to pursue their goals and achieve the American Dream. This accomplishment would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of Florida's teachers and school administrators. I'm also proud of the work we've done to provide record amounts of funding to Florida schools so they can continue to deliver results. I will never stop working to ensure students are prepared to succeed."

Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart said, "I could not be more proud of Florida's students and their educators who have demonstrated unrivaled dedication to excellence. As commissioner, I vowed to be a voice for the voiceless, and that often meant advocating for minority and low-income students whose performance historically fell below that of their white counterparts. Today's announcement is particularly important because it not only shows across-the-board progress, it highlights success in closing the achievement gap and leveling the playing field for all students."

Florida's Graduation Rates, 2003-04

through 2017-18

Florida's graduation rates vary by race/ethnicity. All but one group increased their graduation rates over the past year. The subgroups with the highest percentage point increase over the last five years are as follows:

- The statewide graduation rate among Black/African American students increased by 16.2 percentage points over the last five years, rising from 64.7 percent in 2013-14 to 80.9 percent in 2017-18.
- The graduation rate gap between white and African American students narrowed by 3.3 percentage points compared to 2016-17; the gap in 2016-17 was 11.4 percentage points, and the gap in 2017-18 is 8.1 percentage points.
- The statewide graduation rate among Hispanic students increased by 10.1 percentage points over the last five years, rising from 75 percent in 2013-14 to 85.1 percent in 2017-18.
- The statewide graduation rate among students with disabilities increased by 21.9 percentage points, rising from 55.1 percent in 2013-14 to 77.0 percent in 2017-18.
- The statewide graduation rate among economically disadvantaged students increased by 14.3 percentage points, rising from 67.7 percent in 2013-14 to 82 percent in 2017-18.

For more information about the 2017-18 graduation rates, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/students.stml>.

Continued page 10

Brody left his friends to catch up on the news.



Call TomL at 352-804-1223



4th Annual SHOP Lady Lake EXPO

Put on by the Lady Lake Chamber, the day started out pretty cool, but as the sun came up it warmed to a comfortable temperature. Some 50 vendors participated in the expo and hundreds of visitors showed up to visit the booths. Lots of free gifts were handed out to the visitors. You could get your hearing checked, talk about your health insurance, check out the travel company to find out where you can go and for how

much, etc. There were food trucks serving and selling food all day. I enjoyed the sausage subs that are normally offered. The barbecue was delicious. It was all good. The expo was held under tent at the St. Timothy's Catholic Church on 441 Villages. Cute - there was a lady dressed like a bumble bee selling honey. Lot of fun was had by all. If you see a picture of someone you know, tell them about it.



BUY LOCAL

4th Annual SHOP Lady Lake EXPO



GOVERNOR SCOTT

Continued from page 7

Gov. Scott: \$24 Million Awarded to Boost Economic Growth, Improve Infrastructure in 36 Small and Rural Florida Communities

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced \$24 million in funding awarded to 36 small and rural Florida communities across the state through the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant and the Rural Infrastructure Fund programs. These programs, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), help communities fund economic activities, infrastructure improvements and housing rehabilitation.

Since December 2010, every county in Florida has experienced a drop in its unemployment rate. During the same time, Florida has created nearly 1.7 million private-sector jobs.

Governor Scott said, “Florida is the greatest melting pot and it is vital that we support our rural and small communities to preserve our state's unique identity. Providing small and rural communities the opportunity to make investments in infrastructure and housing programs is key to growing our economy.”

Cissy Proctor, Executive Director of DEO, said, “Supporting the economic development of Florida's small and rural communities is vital to the continued growth of our diverse economy. I am proud of the work we are doing to make these important economic investments that are paving the way for a bright future for many Florida families.”

Thirty-five small and rural communities will receive more than \$23 million in funding through the Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program. This program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and DEO to help communities fund economic activities, infrastructure improvements and housing rehabilitation. The 35 communities include:

Altha	Hawthorne
Apalachicola	High Springs
Avon Park	Indian River
Baldwin	County
Bristol	Interlachen
Chipley	Jay
Clermont	Jefferson County
DeSoto County	Newberry
Esto	Palatka
Flagler County	Paxton
Florida City	Penney Farms
Gilchrist County	Quincy
Grand Ridge	Sebring
Greenville	Trenton
Hamilton County	Wausau
Hampton	White Springs
Hardee County	Williston
Havana	Zolfo Springs

Additionally, more than \$300,000 was awarded to the City of Arcadia through the Rural Infrastructure Grant Fund for waterline improvements and to complete site development at the Arcadia Municipal Airport. These developments are expected to create 15 new full-time jobs, retain 12

full-time jobs and promote new private-sector growth and expansion in aviation for the City of Arcadia. The Rural Infrastructure Grant Fund, administered by DEO, provides funding to local governments for infrastructure projects in rural communities to encourage job creation, business investment, and strengthening and diversification of rural economies.

For more information on the Community Development Block Grant Program, visit FloridaJobs.org/SmallCitiesCDBG.

For more details on the Rural Infrastructure Fund, visit FloridaJobs.org/RIF.

Tooth-Friendly Tailgating



(NAPSI)—Throughout the season, for many football fans, the real game is played on an entirely different field of play: the parking lot.

Tailgating in Wisconsin is taken as seriously as the game itself, often featuring an assortment of brats, hamburgers, pulled pork, chili, chips, cookies, cake, beer and whatever intricate recipe an ambitious

parking lot cook can concoct. Likely absent are such foods as apples, carrots and milk that can help your oral health.

Here are some tips for prioritizing good oral health and food options at your next tailgate.

Don't Punt on Appetizers

No tailgate is complete without a platter of appetizers, including chips, dips, chicken wings and cheese. Small changes to the menu can make for a big difference in oral health.

When it comes to dips, opt for those low in acidity, such as hummus or black bean dip. Acid from food weakens enamel, resulting in tooth decay. Chips might seem like the perfect dipping mate, but carrots, cauliflower and celery offer healthful alternatives that still pack a crunch.

Another easy option is a fresh apple salsa that combines apples, red bell pepper, diced red onion, honey, minced jalapeño, cilantro, lime juice, and salt and pepper. The result is a great fall salsa that pairs well with whole grain chips or grilled chicken.

Many Options in the Main Course Playbook

Brats are a staple of a true Wisconsin tailgate. If you're as loyal to brats as you are to your home team, consider some leaner alternatives such as Old Wisconsin Turkey Bratwurst and Apple Kebabs, Cher-Make 100 Calorie Chicken Brat, or Johnsonville Chicken Sausage Links (with four flavors), which contain 50 percent less fat. Another consideration is grilled fish tacos that still pack in the protein and other vitamins that promote oral health.

Salads can also be a standout option during a tailgate. Leafy greens contain vitamin K,

Continued page 13

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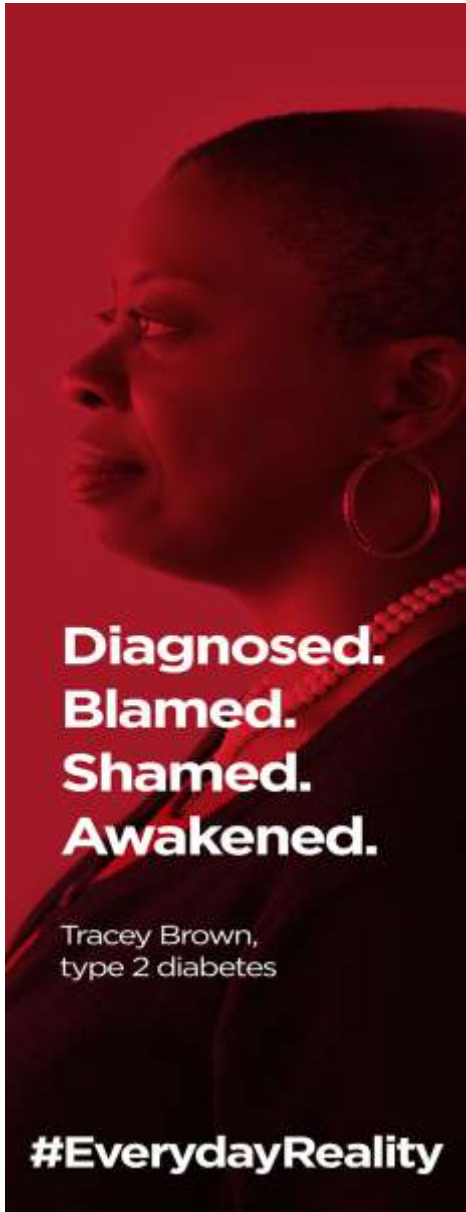
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**Diagnosed.
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Shamed.
Awakened.**

Tracey Brown,
type 2 diabetes

#EverydayReality

Diabetes

Continued from page 3

eating plan for anyone: low in saturated fat and moderate in salt and sugar, with meals based on lean protein, nonstarchy vegetables, whole grains, healthy fats and fruit. People with diabetes can eat sweets and desserts. The key to sweets for everyone is small portions.

Myth: Diabetes isn't that serious.

Fact: Diabetes causes more deaths per year than breast cancer and AIDS combined, and nearly doubles your chance of having a heart attack. The good news is that managing diabetes can reduce your risk of such complications.

For more information, go to www.diabetes.org/everydayreality.

Recycling Cartons

Myths And Facts About Recycling Cartons

(NAPSI)—Recycling is one of the easiest ways the average person can help the environment. Not only does recycling prevent items from ending up in landfills, it reduces the amount of raw materials used to make new products. Here are some myths and facts about recycling commonly used food and beverage cartons:

Myth: Cartons can't be recycled.

Fact: Cartons are certainly recyclable. They can be turned into new products, such as paper towels, tissues and writing paper. They can also be turned into environmentally friendly building

materials, in a process that uses no water or chemicals.

Myth: If a package doesn't have a recycling logo on it, it's not recyclable.

Fact: What can and can't be recycled varies by community and is primarily dependent on the recycling facility. Cartons can carry the standard "Please Recycle" logo under the Federal Trade Commission's green guidelines. It's best to contact your community or check its website to find out what can and can't be recycled.

Myth: You have to put your recyclables in a plastic bag and then in your recycling bin.

Fact: Plastic bags can jam up equipment at recycling centers, slowing everything down and potentially preventing recyclables from getting recycled. Instead, place materials loosely in recycling bins or carts.

Myth: You have to crush cartons and remove the caps and straws before recycling them.

Fact: Just empty any remaining product. No crushing is required, and the caps can be left on. You may want to stuff the straws back into the carton to make sure they don't become litter.

Myth: Cartons have a waxy coating and therefore can't be recycled.

Fact: Food and beverage cartons don't contain any wax. Cartons are made mainly from paper with thin layers of plastic and, in some cases, aluminum.

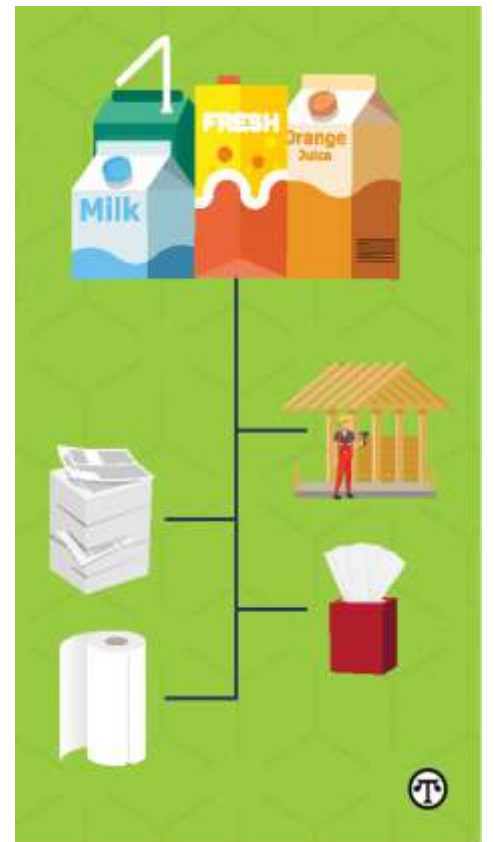
Myth: Cartons have multiple layers that prevent them from being recycled.

Fact: The multiple layers in cartons are broken down during the recycling process. The paper is used to make new paper

products and the aluminum or plastic can be used to generate energy or become binding. In some cases, the entire carton is used to make building materials.

Myth: Most places don't accept cartons for recycling.

Fact: Carton recycling is now available for 62 percent of U.S. households—more than 72.5 million homes—through curbside and drop-off programs. To find out where cartons are accepted, go to www.RecycleCartons.com.



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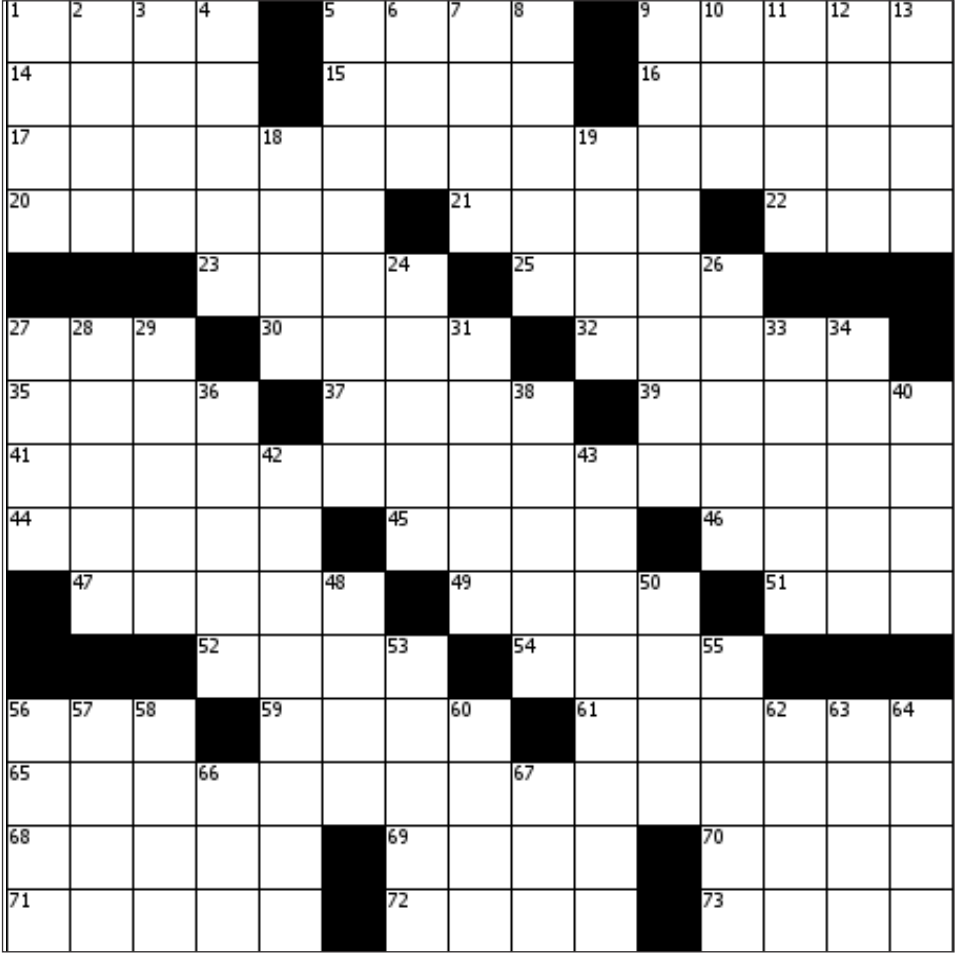
Across

1. Zinging remark
5. Tarzan's friends
9. Less desirable berth, perhaps
14. Two-tone treat
15. Harmless prank
16. Born yesterday
17. Nightgown wearer of rhyme
20. Nonchalant syllables
21. Chicken recipe
22. Benevolent one
23. Bioelectric creatures
25. It can be pressing
27. Kind of burglar
30. Skywalker cohort
32. Fodder for a shrink
35. Diva's delivery
37. Canonical hour
39. "Hit the road!"
41. Film about a boy inheriting the Twins
44. Gal's guy
45. Touchy
46. Zero, in a sport
47. Lists
49. Fit inside

Down

51. After taxes
52. Rectangular boat
54. Erstwhile despot
56. Short whistle blower
59. Mark's replacement
61. Catch phrase
65. Jenner contribution of 1796
68. VCR part
69. Famous Diamond
70. Have no doubts
71. Cloth fold
72. Flying nuisance
73. Without

- Zebulon
12. Like Edmund in "King Lear"
13. Stench
18. One day in March
19. Unvalued growth
24. Ones guilty of disorderly conduct?
26. Window sticker
27. Shin's back
28. "The Little Mermaid"
29. Lord or Lady, e.g.
31. Frank option
33. Inert gas
34. Purplish hue
36. He bore a heavy load
38. Source of ornamental plumes
40. Track tourney
42. Lover of Guinevere
43. Health food ad claim, perhaps
48. Beginning course, perhaps
50. Powder type
53. Misguided
55. Ice, to a mixologist
56. Invitation letters
57. Famed runner
- Zatopek
58. Dim
60. Yoke pair
62. Ms. Lollobrigida
63. Shakespearean "soon"
64. Latest buzz
66. Pastoral expanse
67. By way of



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Love Notes

By Lauren Miyashiro

Ingredients

2 refrigerated pie crusts
Flour for rolling out dough
1/2 c. strawberry jam
Egg wash
1/4 c. Granulated sugar, for sprinkling



Directions

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, roll out 1 pie

crust. Using a paring knife, cut out long diamond shapes, about 4" on each side. Transfer diamonds to baking sheet. Re-roll extra dough to make more diamonds. (You should have enough dough to make about 6.)

Fill the center of each diamond with a very thin layer of strawberry filling, then fold three of the corners into the center so that the dough looks like an open envelope. Use a small heart cookie cutter to stamp out remaining dough into hearts, and place in the center of each.

Brush envelopes with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar. Bake until envelopes are golden, about 15 minutes.

Let cool for 10 minutes on baking sheet before transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely.

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a58065/strawberry-love-notes-recipe/>

Jell-O Shots



Chocolate Covered Strawberry Jell-O Shots

Ingredients

25 large strawberries
1 (3 oz) box strawberry Jell-O
1 c. water, boiled
1 c. vodka
1 1/4 c. semisweet chocolate chips
2 tsp. coconut oil

Directions

Slice off the tops and tips of strawberries, removing the stem and leveling them so they can stand up on a flat surface. Using a small melon baller, gently scoop out inside of strawberry, creating a "shot glass." Discard insides.

Line a small cooking sheet with parchment paper. Combine chocolate chips and coconut oil in a large bowl and microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until completely melted. Dip hollowed out strawberries in chocolate and place, cup side up, on baking sheet. Place in refrigerator to harden, 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, make jell-O: In a large bowl, whisk together Jell-O and boiling water until completely dissolved. Add vodka and whisk to combine.

Carefully pour Jell-O mixture into strawberries. Refrigerate until firm, 3 to 4 hours.

Remove strawberries from refrigerator and place on serving plate. Serve.

Tailgating

Continued from page 10

which produces a protein that shields teeth from tooth decay. Add in broccoli to deliver vitamin C, which helps protect against gum disease.

Finish Strong in the Fourth Quarter: Dessert

Dessert is a fan favorite but can be one of the worst perpetrators looking to sack your oral health. "When sugar enters the mouth, bacteria found in plaque converts the sugar into acid. This acid dissolves the important enamel that covers your teeth, opening you up to cavities," explained Dr. Fred Eichmiller, vice president and chief science officer at Delta Dental of Wisconsin. "I suggest dessert options like fruit salad, which pack in vitamins that help you maintain your oral health."

Drink in Moderation

When it comes to alcoholic beverages, moderation is key. Red wine might stain teeth (but still has health benefits!) and mixed drinks with soda can decay teeth. If indulging, light beer may be the best option, as it is the least sugary and acidic of the three.

Another good practice while tailgating is to rinse your mouth with water throughout the day. Any residue from food or drinks will be washed away. Drinking water will also increase saliva production, which prevents tooth decay. Dr. Eichmiller notes that, ideally, you should drink tap water that contains fluoride to strengthen tooth enamel.

The next time you plan out your tailgate, think about adding some healthy options to the playbook. You could well be smiling and happy that you did.

<https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a58087/chocolate-covered-strawberry-jell-o-shot-recipe/>

Christmas Story

Continued from page 1

gaging, coughing as we were taking him out of the water and he had a huge lump on his head. He did not seem to have any after effects so after a while he got on his bike and went home. He was really embarrassed. I did not share that story for years, because his dad would have been really mad because he was not supposed to be playing in the canal, so I said nothing for years. Last year a friend said I ran into someone that said you saved his life. It was him, the fireman's son. I'm glad I was in the right place to help! He has a large family of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

I did not use names because I did not have permission to tell the story but it is a great memory for me!

Attny General

Continued from page 2

Attorney General Bondi.

The letter explains that many states have experienced success through state criminal justice reforms similar to those in the First Step Act. The First Step Act would create programs that incentivize federal inmates to participate in recidivism-reducing programs including vocational training and academic courses. The act would also put more tools in the hands of prosecutors.

"This legislation provides additional tools and flexibility to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, better equipping our correctional system to ensure that people coming back into our communities are prepared to do so as responsible citizens who do not pose a risk to our communities," the attorneys general wrote in the letter to Congress.

View a copy of the letter <http://myfloridalegal.com/>

Attorney General Bondi co-lead the letter to Congressional leaders with the attorneys general from the District of Columbia, North Carolina, Texas and Utah.

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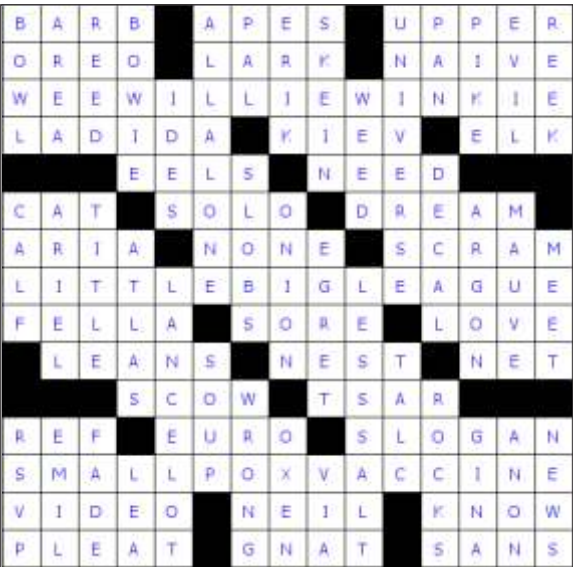
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