

We Are Number One



We are #1! It is a chant and cheer that can meet a variety of different things but it almost always a positive. In this case, the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) is celebrating being named the national Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives for 2020. In other words, the CEP is the #1 chamber in all the land. This is the *only* globally-recognized industry award that honors top chambers.

At the CEP, this is more than just a pretty trophy and banner to hang on the wall. It is recognition of the unique partnerships which exist in this community between businesses, local governments, education providers, and the CEP. The idea behind chamber of the year award is to recognize those chambers which have demonstrated

organizational strength and made an impact on key community priorities. The partnerships that exist and drive growth in this community is at the heart of what is recognized with this award. In other words, it is not just a CEP award but it is an award for the entire Ocala Metro.

One might wonder why this matters to the community at large? If one does not own a business, why does the CEP, the voice of the business community, receiving recognition really matter? It means the entity designated to lead growth and development for our area is operating at the highest level and leading efforts to meaningfully impact our community. The combination of metrics reviews, white papers, and in-depth interviews means that data is being tested and reviewed and it is consistently coming

out among the very best. In fact, this year it is *the* very best!

Qualifying for Chamber of the Year is a rigorous process. First, chambers compete based on meeting key performance criteria on the ACCE Annual Operations Survey. To qualify to apply chambers must meet minimum thresholds in at least three of five key performance areas, including net revenue, net assets, membership account retention, and membership dollar retention. Those who meet these qualifications are then invited to submit a written application addressing all aspects of organizational operation and programmatic work. Applications are scored by peer chamber executives to determine finalists. Winners are selected from among finalists based on an in-person interview before a panel of

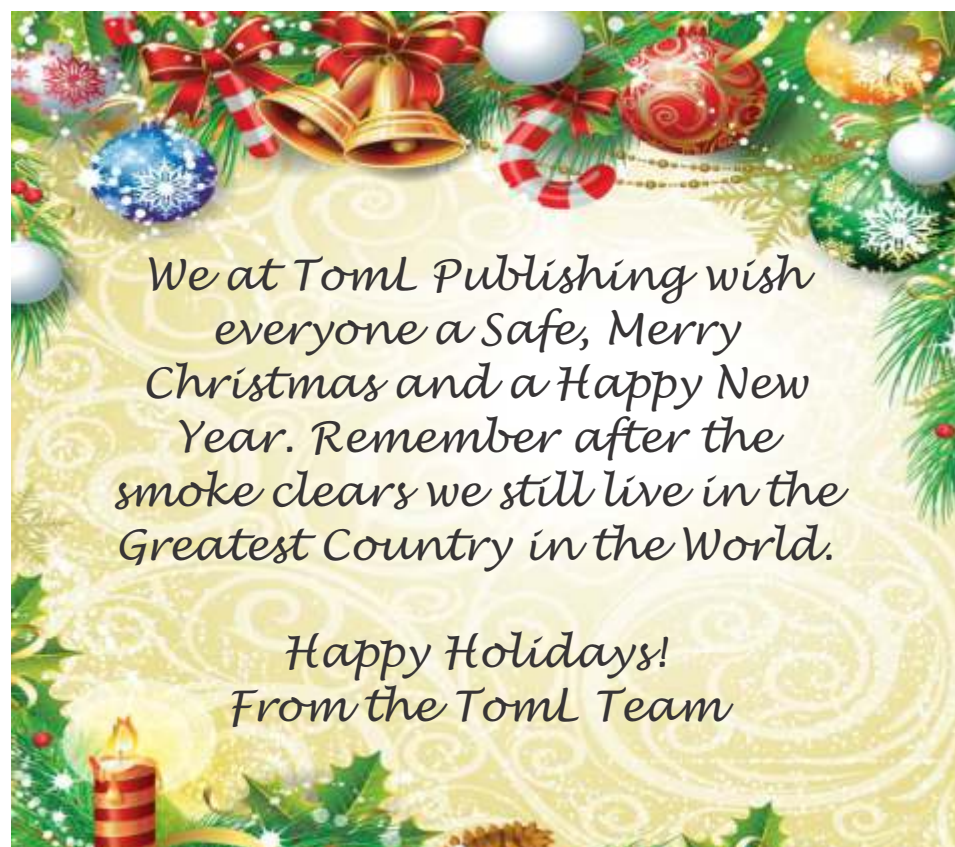
experienced chamber professionals who are themselves past winners.

For the last 11 years, the CEP has regularly benchmarked the Ocala Metro against 10 other similarly sized metros across the Southeast. Knowing how the community compares against similar communities is a great way to track progress. How strong are these benchmarks? Half are past Chamber of the Year winners. Ocala is now on the same footing as these peers. The CEP is recognized among the best because our community is among the very best and that is what all of these efforts are truly about – working to ensure that the Ocala Metro is a prosperous community.



Ocala Business Leaders met Rodney Gutierrez, CMP Sales Manager for the World Equestrian Center. Rodney was invited by April Savarese of the Boys and

Girls Club of Marion County to speak to the OBL group about what the facility has to offer the Community.



Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The CEP would like to thank the more than 132,000 Marion County voters who overwhelmingly approved the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax. The renewal won more than 70% approval in a record voter turnout.

Perhaps more impressively, the issue won every Marion County precinct – all 122!

The CEP through its political committee Citizens Encouraging Progress, Inc or CEPI lead the effort to encourage voters to renew. A broad base of businesses contributed more than \$80,000 to assist this effort. This may cause one to wonder why the CEP and

businesses would invest so much time and dollars into this issue. What are they getting out of it?

It is a fair question. First, the CEP receives no funding from the sales tax. All of the funds are dedicated to building and maintaining transportation infrastructure and to the capital needs (equipment, facilities, etc.) of our first responders. Businesses and the CEP recognize that if our community is to continue to grow (and the Ocala Metro is now adding nearly 150 new residents a week) then there must be continued investments in building and maintaining our roads and other transportation infrastructure and in supporting our first responders. Businesses and residents agree that when there is an

emergency, you want to know that when you call 911 the appropriate assistance will arrive with the equipment they need to help.

Additionally, the sales tax is the more efficient and effective way to fund these important items. An ad valorem (property) tax is only paid by the 65% of residents who own property. However, a sales tax is paid not only by every resident but all of those who visit and commute into our community each day. Our economist tells us that is at least 30% of the revenue. Having 130% fund the roads we all use and the first responders on which we all depend is definitely more efficient than expecting 65% to fund the items.

Your support and renewal of this important investment in our community is not only appreciated, it is needed if we are to continue to grow and prosper. Great things are happening in the Ocala Metro and the future is very bright for our area. Thank you for your continued investment in our joint future.

Land Trust Donation

North Florida Land Trust has received a conservation easement donation in Columbia County

The Griffis family donated the easement which is within the critical O2O wildlife corridor

Jacksonville, Fla., Oct. 28, 2020 – North Florida Land Trust has received a donation of a conservation easement in Columbia County which lies within the critical Ocala to Osceola, or O2O, wildlife corridor. Sam “Buck” Griffis and his wife, Vickie, donated the land on their 68-acres known as Sweet Gum Farm to make sure it remains free from development forever. A grant NFLT received from the EJK Foundation of Houston, Texas helped to fund the due diligence that was needed to complete the donation.

“Buck and Vickie consider the farm a sanctuary and wanted to make sure no one could come in and turn their beautiful farm into a residential development,” said Jim McCarthy, president of NFLT. “The Griffis’ will continue to own the land where they enjoy raising cattle, horses and chickens while ensuring it will remain a farm and natural forest in perpetuity.”

In addition to the farmlands and some unimproved pastures, the property consists of pine flatwoods, depression marshes, mixed scrub-shrub wetlands and upland hardwood forests. It lies within the boundaries of the Osceola National Forest and is adjacent to the forest on two sides. Preserving the land not only protects it from development but also helps further the objectives of The Forest Plan for the National Forests in Florida. The plan aims to improve ownership patterns of the forest to enable important management techniques including prescribed burning.

The 1.6 million-acre O2O corridor is a preservation focus for NFLT. It provides an important habitat for the Florida Black Bear and numerous endangered species including the red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snakes and gopher tortoises. The nonprofit is currently leading the O2O Wildlife Corridor Partnership, an effort by public and private organizations to accelerate land conservation within the O2O.

The EJK Foundation awarded NFLT a \$450,000 transformational grant to help support its efforts in the O2O Wildlife Corridor and also issued a \$75,000 challenge grant for additional funding for the project.

McCarthy said, “The EJK Foundation grant has allowed us to save another piece of the beautiful natural landscape from future development. We encourage any landowners, ranchers or farmers that want to do the same to please give us a call.”

NFLT has until August 31, 2021, to meet the challenge and is actively seeking funds to be matched 1:1 by the EJK Foundation if the \$75,000 goal is met. If you are interested in supporting the O2O operations and have your gift matched, contact Megan Mangiaracino at mmangiaracino@nflt.org or (904) 559-4187.

About North Florida Land Trust

North Florida Land Trust is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to protect the natural resources, historic places and working lands (farms and ranches) throughout north Florida. Founded in 1999, NFLT has preserved tens of thousands of

Continued page 8

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Working Daughters Deserve Support



(NAPSI)—For the approximate 23 million women who balance caring for an aging parent with going to work, and often raising children of their own, there is little recognition and not enough support. These women themselves often don't think of what they do as caregiving; they just consider themselves dutiful daughters. Yet they average 24.4 hours of unpaid care a week, from buying groceries, to managing medication, helping with household chores, assisting their parents with bathing and dressing, and driving to appointments. Many are even providing complex medical tasks, with little or no training, such as administering injections, monitoring vital signs, caring for wounds or cleaning feeding tubes. Collectively, they provide \$470 billion in unpaid care, according to the AARP.

Often, these women provide this care at great cost to their careers. Working daughters, much like working mothers, may need to switch to a less demanding job, take time off or quit work altogether. They lose

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Remembering the Vets at the OBL Meeting. The Ocala Business Leader ask for all the vets that were there please come up front. They were ask to give a short version of what branch of military

they we're in and anything else they wanted to say. All were up beat except when mentioning the loss of a family member. Several said it was exciting and they had fun traveling but not when they

were near the front. Some were retired military. Some were in the reserves but they all gave a positive up beat story.

Super Computer True or False

A man who once claimed he could prove a federal conspiracy against Sheriff Joe Arpaio — and who collected more than \$100,000 from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office before it determined his claims were baseless — is now a key figure in a right-wing vote fraud conspiracy theory being pushed by key supporters of President Donald Trump.

Media reports and conservative activists

on social media say Dennis Montgomery has been spreading the claim that widespread voter fraud is the product of a deep-state supercomputer called "The Hammer" and software called "Scorecard." According to the claims circulated online, those systems were allegedly used to alter ballot counts across the country.

The right-wing website American Report apparently helped launch the idea in a story it published Oct. 31. American Report features, among other things, extensive stories reiterating right-wing conspiracy theories from the Obama administration era.

The site said Montgomery claimed to have developed the HAMR, or Hammer, computer and the Scorecard software in the late 2000s, and that it was commandeered by the Obama administration and used to steal the 2012 election and is now being used to steal the election on Biden's behalf.

The claim has been pushed by former Trump adviser Steve Bannon, former national security adviser Michael Flynn, Fox Business host Lou Dobbs and other high-profile allies in Trump's orbit — though researchers have thoroughly debunked the idea.

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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



Where do we go from here??? Well I hope we can work on re-enforcing the voting laws so that everyone has confidence in them. Electing a President who helps governs all of the United States will not work if all the states are setting their

own election laws! One set of elections laws for all states! Requester ballots only! ID to prove you are eligible to vote and strengthen penalty's for election fraud!

Our Country does have it's problems but if we follow our Constitution we will survive. While we have 9 Supreme Court Justices they need to give us a ruling on all the problems that are arising over the Election and just make everything that was done is legal according to our Constitution. They don't want to get into the mix but this so big they must rule, Question: Was everything done legally according to our Constitution?

If yes so be it! Where do we go from here. I think there will be many protest and there will be a lot of violence and it could turn into a Civil War, which I warned people many months ago. I also think Bernie Sanders will create havoc with the Democrats because he feels like he had a deal and now they are not making good. But Bernie should expect that because he used the Democrats. I say FOLLOW THE CONSTITUTION!

I will respect the office of Presidency when this is over, I will respect the Senate I can't respect the House. They talk about Trump being ruded and being a bully check out the videos when they were questioning the new Supreme Court Justices. If want to look up nasty people in the dictionary there will be a picture of some of the Democrats in the House.

Bob Hope said "I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six." He lived to be 100 and passed away about 15

years ago.

A sign on a Law Firms door. "Ditcher, Quick & Hyde" (Divorce Lawyers) I think I would change the name or maybe they will give you a divorce with expensive humor???

There a lot of famous people saying lots of famous quotes. Here is one, they say some people are on the highway to hell and think about there is only a stairway to heaven. Does that mean there is a lot more traffic going the wrong way. I hope not!

Fishing is a great experience, but some times it is less than relaxing. My friend Bill and I went out, the wind was bowing 35 mile an hour, it certainly was not hot. We each caught a lot of different fish, catch and release. Approximately 10 Rock Bass, 1 Shark, 2 Moray not the eel, they are a sucker fish that hangs around sharks, 2 Trout, 1 Cat fish, 1 Pompano, countless grunts. We were wind burned but had a good time, some time a little uncomfortable but mostly had fun! Try it you might like it! Next time we will make sure the wind is not blowing to strong.

Grand Babies Well it has come to past that both sons and their wives have had babies just a few days apart. Yes one was born at Shane's and one was born in Ocala. Both healthy boys and both mothers are fine. We are Blessed! Older Grandson Lane age 4 had a Birthday a few days before deadline of this paper. He can't wait to play with his baby brother.

Holiday Blues?



Many Older Americans Heading Into The Holidays Feeling Depressed

(NAPSI)—Many older Americans say they feel depressed—yet the majority of them are not planning to get help, according to a new national survey—though it could make a tremendous difference in their health and well-being.

With the onset of colder weather, fewer daylight hours, and the effect of the pandemic on holiday celebrations and traditions, more seniors than ever could be struggling with depression.

The GeneSight Mental Health Monitor reported that about two-thirds of adults 65 and older who are concerned they may be suffering from depression say they won't seek treatment. That's compared to fewer than half of adults over age 18. In addition, three in 10 of these older adults think "they can just snap out of it."

"The 'pull yourself up by your bootstraps' mindset and reluctance to talk about mental health may be preventing seniors from getting the help they need," said Dr. Mark Pollack, chief medical officer of Myriad Neuroscience, makers of the GeneSight test, a genetic measure that identifies potential gene-drug interactions for depression medication. "People seek treatment for conditions like heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes. Depression is no different. It is an illness that can and should be treated."

One GeneSight patient, Carmala Walgren, a 74-year-old resident of New York, agrees that depression should be treated regardless of age.

"There is such a stigma about depression among people my age," said Walgren. "It is worth it to find treatment that helps you."

Canceling Holiday Celebrations and The Effect on Mental Health

The pandemic is taking a toll on the mental health of older Americans. Nearly one in four people over age 65 said that the news about the pandemic has left them "feeling consumed with sadness." For those seniors who think they might have depression, the number climbs to nearly 4 in 10. Concerns about COVID are also why more than one in three seniors worried about being depressed say they are "somewhat" or "very likely" to cancel holiday celebrations such as Thanksgiving.

Even as some consider canceling holiday festivities, isolation from friends and family

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, December 16th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 22nd

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Email: tloury@att.net

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- Elks Club (OBL meeting)
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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
From my family to yours, we wish all of you a blessed holiday season and we hope that this is a joyous time for you and your loved ones. My family will celebrate the holidays

traditionally and safely. We do not intend to let government tell us whom we can or cannot invite in to our home. American families are perfectly capable of taking necessary precautions to protect those that may be vulnerable without the Washington bureaucrat's lectures. May this time of peace and thanksgiving be a reminder of the blessing of liberty that we all have in America.

With the elections now behind us, the work of the Florida Senate has turned to organization and preparation for the upcoming Legislative Session. The first step in this process has been completed as we have just returned from Tallahassee, having elected our new Senate leadership and sworn-in our new or returning members. Our leadership in the Florida Senate is extremely talented, driven, and focused. We could not be in better hands for the upcoming challenges that we will face over the next two years. From pandemic response, to budgetary issues and re-districting, we will have our hands full, but President Wilton Simpson is the man for a time such as this and we have every confidence that his leadership will

see us through. In the coming weeks, the Senate will be releasing our committee assignments. We do not yet know which areas we will be focusing on, but your Senator stands ready to serve wherever he may be called.

The final and most important task that must be completed prior to the 2021 Session will be to hear from you, the constituents. In Senate District 12, there will be three opportunities for citizens to speak directly to their entire Legislative Delegation about issues important them. Each county in the district, Marion, Lake, and Sumter, will hold these meetings in December. These are open, public meetings and we encourage everyone to attend and present their ideas or concerns to their elected representatives. This process and this government cannot work without you. The seats we occupy in Tallahassee are your seats, we just sit in them for you. Please call my office if you need any information about these upcoming Legislative Delegation Meetings at (352) 750-3133 and a staff member will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for sending me to Tallahassee to protect Faith, Family, Freedom, Opportunity and Life.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley



Holiday Blues

Continued from page 4

remains a concern. Just under half of these seniors say they feel "isolated and disconnected from family," compared with 28% of all respondents over age 65, and 24% of respondents over age 18.

Connecting Can Help with Depression

Parikshit Deshmukh, M.D., CEO and medical director at Balanced Wellbeing, LLC, specializes in geriatric psychiatry. According to Dr. Deshmukh, families should make plans to connect virtually if they don't feel comfortable about getting together in person. Further, caregivers should be vigilant in looking for the signs of depression in their older loved ones.

"It's more important than ever to let each other know we care and that we are not alone—even if it feels that way," said Dr. Deshmukh. "Video calls might not be for everyone. Yet, if that's the only way to stay

in touch, we need to do it."

And Dr. Deshmukh reminds seniors to talk to their doctors. "If your clinician recommends treatment, ask about the GeneSight test. The results can help them make decisions about medications to treat your depression."

That's just what Carmala Walgren's doctor did. "The results I got from this personalized genetic test helped my doctor and me to finally find the medication that worked for my depression."

He told me that because I was covered by Medicare, there would be no cost for me to take the test.

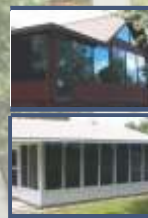
"The GeneSight test made such a difference in my life," added Walgren. "I don't know where I would be without it, especially now."

Learn More

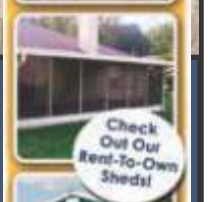
For further information on older adults and depression, visit

www.genesight.com/olderadult.

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor

You are a critical thinker if you embrace everything that is immoral and evil. No God tops your list. No religion. No tolerance for others views. My way or the highway. We do it my way or you get off this planet. The ultimate intolerance. You got to live your life the way I dictate. Per Antifa and BLM.

Pretty dogmatic don't you think? Are you willing to submit.? Biden wants us all to unite as long as it is what he says we must do.

I am living in fear that the first thing he is going to do is take my healthcare away. I pay dearly for it, but I have it. His way will take it away and substitute FAUXcare, just like Obamacare. If all they gave you is a bottle of aspirin, and called it healthcare, they could placate you.. How can you call it healthcare, if you never see a doctor? If care is in a drug store or grocery store? I cannot believe people fell for that garbage.

You are so easy to fool.

Most people I know do not know the difference between an MD. and a DO.

Sweden fell for that phoney healthcare, and they learned the hard way, realcare {opposite of fauxcare} must be paid for. They have the option of buying healthcare, and they use it.. That is what I am doing, and prefer it remain that way. You can have all the fauxcare you want. Just leave me alone. that is what freedom means. Anything else constitutes slavery. I thought slavery was passe. Make up your mind.

You do not have a clue how you are being hoodwinked.

I have lived a long time doing it MY way, I kinda like that way. To late to teach this old dog new tricks. Go away and leave me alone. I kinda like freedom.

Concerned Citizen

Dear Editor:

We never learn. Can we try one more time. Humans want to live happy lives on this planet, but have yet to find a suitable solution. We have just voted in a bunch of idiot socialists, even though we see socialism i.e. communism

failing every day. Why is it going to work for us?

Because these power lusters say it will? Come on are we that stupid? Because some do not like the way the president talks, we will submit to slavery. Smart move.

Syndicalism is the new cutesy name Noam Chomsky names the latest form of enslavement.

It is supposed to be the ownership of corporations by workers. It will work as long as any other ism, until the power lusters gain control.

This is such an illusive conclusion? Power Lusting is our problem. Where are the smart buttock philosophers on the issue that matters?

All these isms look good on paper, but

power lusters get their hands on any solution, and it turns to dust. Why doesn't any philosopher find the cure for power lusting.? That is what we need.

We have the power and we do not use it. **DO NOT VOTE FOR POWER LUSTERS.**

We just blew the greatest chance human beings have ever had. Doubt another will come along any time soon. The president may talk funny, but he has the right philosophy. You live your life, not the power lusters. Get it?

D.I.L.

Dear Editor:

We are at war. Good versus evil. Evil appears to have won this round.

Humans have no idea the price they are going to have to pay for their lack of knowledge. This is what the lack of knowledge leads to!

One very sick man has propounded a bombastic philosophy which they have bought into, which will eventually lead to their undoing.

Just because some sick dude says something is good, does not make it so.

Evil can never trump good. Never! Marcuse told you evil is good, and you believe him. Marx started it, as he saw himself as a suitable substitute for God. Two very sick men are believed and the entire sheepley herd must suffer. How is that smart?

Happy I will not be around for the show, you will suffer the consequences of your stupidity without me. My sympathy goes to those who knew and could not dissuade you.

You do not have a clue how sick Marx and Marcuse, and their idiot following can be. They are ruthless in their pursuit of evil. How else could you riot and loot, and kill rather than dialogue? Class was Marx's stick. Politics and culture were Marcuse's beef. Both saw themselves as God replacements. No God, no morals needed for humans.

You seem to be oblivious to the misery they have in store for you. That is O.K. for you, but what about the good people you have dragged along for your insane ride?

I pity them. You are the stupid ones, they do not deserve to suffer because of you. Even though you revel in evil, this will go beyond evil. You will suffer. Anyone remember the Inquisition, Hitler, Pol Pot, Stalin, Mao, CCP, Un????

Many humans are born with defects. Do we celebrate those defects? Do we study to correct those defects? Or, do we go to the moon?

Biden the Corrupt is an appropriate leader? Dead people and Dipsey Doodles just elected a president. God help us.

November 7: Mark it well, the day the American Republic died. Communist America was born.

D.I.L

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OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

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

CEP

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Saving The Workforce



by Emily McGrath

(NAPSI)—If you have a job—or wish you did—or a child in school, a new way of looking at technology, education and the world of work may

prove good news for you.

COVID-19 has deeply affected both the American workforce and higher education, with community college enrollment down nationwide. This poses a dire challenge, as community colleges serve as a critical pipeline in making universities and advanced fields accessible to a broader population, while also exposing students to new educational pathways across various industries. With enrollment down and workforce numbers at a tipping point, these institutions of opportunity need momentum to drive motivation back to where it was

before the pandemic—starting with the next generation of diverse advanced manufacturing workers.

Thanks to explosive growth in such sectors as flexible hybrid electronics (FHE), in the next few years industry leaders will serve as intermediaries between technical fields of the future and the workforce that's needed. Equipping community colleges with programs that serve this transition will help bolster a new American workforce, powered by advanced manufacturing and FHE and other technology. Increased demand for both awareness-boosting and skill-building programs will help drive technology development and subsequent commercial proliferation of FHE and the greater advanced manufacturing industry.

While the tech workforce hasn't been immune to disruption from COVID-19, it remains a field expected to have one of the biggest demands for a skilled workforce in the future. The pandemic has temporarily reduced that workforce; there's a promising future for advanced manufacturing in 2021 and beyond.

To match these growing markets, there

will be an increasing demand for workshops and seminars that showcase the benefits the technology offers for diverse application spaces, as FHE technology continues to mature and demonstrate its potential to transform advanced manufactured products. This includes more defense and industrial demand for engineers with the knowledge, skills and abilities to design and manufacture FHE-enabled products as the technology nears commercialization.

This is where community colleges come

in. They will play a vital role, acting as a bridge to help new high school graduates and adults looking to change career paths meet the academic and industry players that will help develop the new workforce.

Ms. McGrath is Director of Workforce Development at NextFlex, an organization that facilitates technology innovation and commercialization, accelerates manufacturing workforce development, and promotes a sustainable ecosystem for advanced manufacturing. Learn more at www.nextflex.us.

Ads sponsored by TomL Publishing and Ocala Business Leaders

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

4TH ANNUAL STRAWBERRY JAM SK

MARCH 6TH, 2021

A DELICIOUSLY SWEET ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL HABITAT STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL! THIS SK STARTS/ENDS AT MCPHERSON COMPLEX AND WINDS THROUGH THE HIGHLANDS NEIGHBORHOODS. PROCEEDS GO TOWARD OUR 'STRAWBERRY HOUSE'.

8TH ANNUAL OCALA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

MARCH 6TH, 2021

JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY FUN AS THIS EVENT FEATURES LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT, OVER 200 VENDORS, A CAR SHOW, PIE EATING CONTEST, PET SHOW, KIDS ZONE, FOOD/DRINKS, DELICIOUS STRAWBERRIES & MORE!

3RD ANNUAL MISSY KING'S HOOKIN' FOR HABITAT FISHING TOURNAMENT

MAY 22, 2021

A FUN, SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT THAT WILL PROMOTE A HEALTHY AND FRIENDLY OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY. THERE WILL BE A YOUTH DIVISION FOR TWO AGE GROUPS TO ENCOURAGE OUR FUTURE LEADERS TO STAY & PLAY OUTDOORS AND LEARN ABOUT THE ECOSYSTEM.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT HABITATOCALA.ORG/EVENTS

SANTA'S CALLING

Schedule a call with Santa from the North Pole!

Ocala Recreation and Parks has partnered with the North Pole to directly connect Ocala's good little boys and girls to Santa! You can schedule an evening call from December 8-10 when Santa's helpers will call your home so your child can speak directly with Mr. or Mr. Claus!



352.368.5517 | recpark@ocalafl.org | ocalafl.org/recpark

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

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

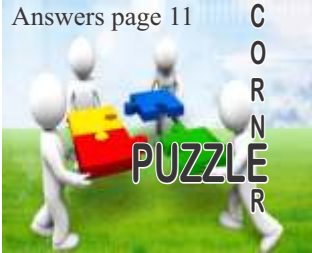
Ninja is paralyzed in his hind legs but enjoys runs with his wheels.

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: _____

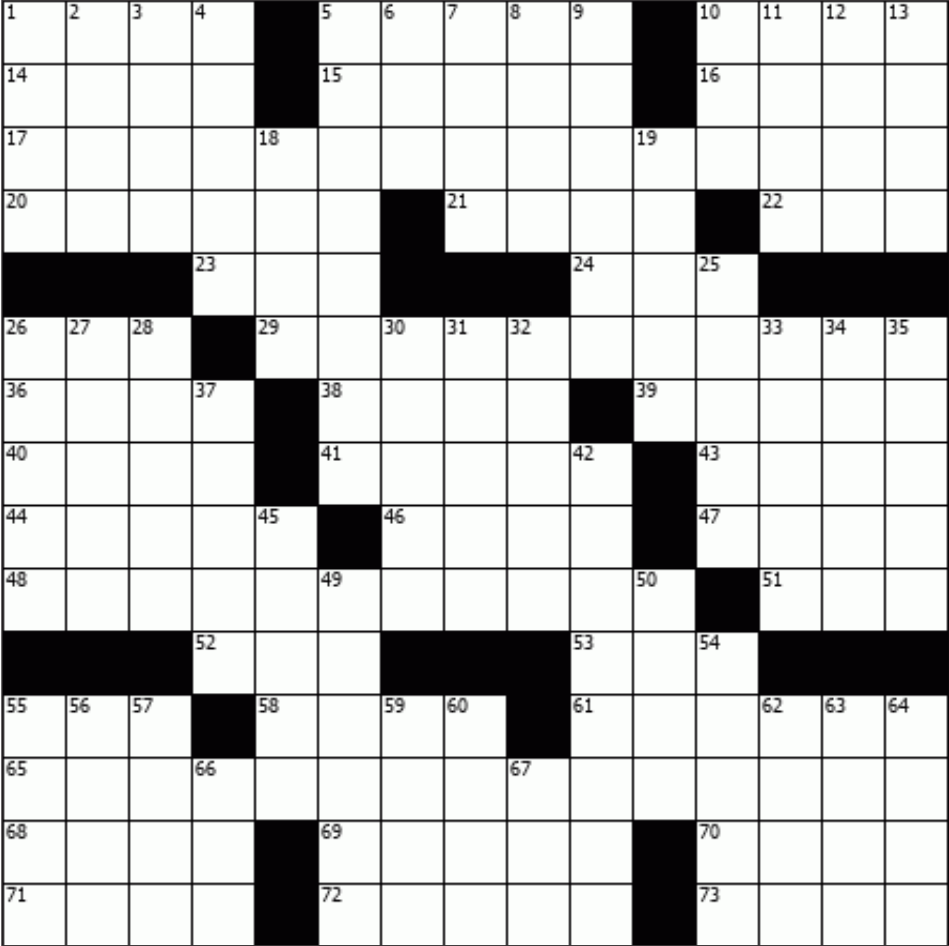
Donations to the Humane Society are tax-deductible. Check with your accountant for more information. No goods or services have been provided to the donor as a result of this gift.



- Answers page 11
- Across**
- Painter of melting watches
 - It doesn't give much of a hoot!
 - Tracks traveler
 - X ____ xylophone
 - Orleans river
 - This company rings a bell
 - Example of 29-Across
 - La Scala shows
 - Sight from a fjord, perhaps
 - Game show mystery guest
 - Certain farm dweller
 - Unrealistic potato chip portion
 - Super quiet, musically
 - What you're doing by solving this puzzle (with 48-Across)
 - Frog or year
 - It will hold your horses
 - Emulate a crab
 - Coastal flyer
 - Musial and Smith

- Trawling needs
 - Bye, somewhere
 - Lunchbox dessert
 - Pierce with a tusk
 - See 29-Across
 - "The Confessions of _____ m Turner"
 - Pension starter?
 - Hué holiday
 - Family docs
 - Frolic boisterously
 - Mercury, to the Greeks
 - Example of 29-Across
 - Just ____ (not much)
 - Painful grief, in poetry
 - They may be called on account of rain
 - Longs
 - Idyllic places
 - In ____ (actually)
- Down**
- Wainscot
 - In a hurry, for short
 - Longest sentence
 - Prefix with red or structure
 - Graybeards
 - Lavish with flowers, me.g.
 - Start to type?
 - Significant times
 - Expose by finking
 - "That'll show 'em!"
 - Egg without a shell
 - Afrikaner
 - Banded gem
 - Half a Chinese circle

- Ding- ____ (bell sounds)
- Giving a once-over (Var.)
- Say "Not guilty," me.g.
- Proust's "A la recherche du temps ____"
- Type of button
- Yellowstone neighbor
- It's fit for a princess
- Adjective form Mongolia
- Classic music hall
- Sound beginning
- Button in an alley
- Sneaks a look
- Balms, comforters, mconsoleers, etc.
- Great deal of interest
- Wagner heroine
- Legendary coachman
- White-flag waver's desire
- Mate's greeting
- Controversial Rose
- Cygnets' destiny
- Ellington's was indigo
- Cry in a thin voice
- Some U. degrees
- Retrocedes
- Common enc.
- Belonging to Mr. Begley
- Cyclotron particle



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NEED A BREAK? Read the paper!

Land Trust

Continued from page 2

acres of land through donation or purchase of land as well as conservation easements. NFLT is funded largely by private and corporate contributions and works closely with willing landowners and public agencies at all levels of government, not-for-profit partners, and foundations. For more information, visit nflt.org.

Daughters

Continued from page 3

wages and job-related benefits costing them, on average, \$304,000 in lost wages and benefits while spending nearly 20 percent of their own income on caregiving. To give these unsung heroes recognition and much needed support, it's important to make the care they give compatible with their careers. With 10,000 people turning 65

every day in the United States, the caregiving workforce is only going to grow. Smart businesses must examine policies and corporate cultures to create environments where caregivers can thrive. Working daughters need flexibility, paid family leave policies and expanding eligibility requirements. They need affordable, quality eldercare options.

Learn more at www.workingdaughter.com.

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Grow your business!

GET BUSINESS SUPPORT
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List your job openings with the CEP to recruit your next staff member.
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RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Mimmi's

Ocala Florida

My wife Phyllis and I were seated she ordered hot tea w/honey, extra lemon and a sandwich hoagy with Ham and Swiss and Parmesan melted over it with a sauce which she requested it on the side and a side of Cole Slaw. She said it was yummy!

I ordered get this I have liver once a year, it was on special so I had liver, onions, bacon, mushrooms, steamed Broccoli, spinach w/butter. I put some vinegar on the spinach. Coffee was hot and plentiful, I might order this two or three times a year.

Harorum Korean BBQ

3045 SE 3rd Avenue

Ocala, FL 34471

352-622-1899

Don't think you're going to a real Korean BBQ with open flame table grills. This is a Convenience Store/Gas Station, with very small selection of Asian retail food products.

This is a Take-Out only, just like Chinese restaurants. Keep in mind Korean, Italian, Chinese or other restaurants have their own blend of spices, marinates and style of cooking. That's why we prefer various restaurants for different reasons.

Harorum, provides FRESH made to order Korean favorites. The menu is limited, using quality meats, generous servings, tasty and fresh. We had Bulgogi, thin sliced, sweet marinated beef grilled with onions and garlic on white rice, included 2 Korean vegetable appetizers. I also purchased

FRESH made Kemchi, nice mix of spices, not spicy, perfectly fermented with a nice crunch and good flavor. Overall a nice change for lunch or dinner and cravings for something different!

M. Frank Turner

Wok n Roll #2

8602 SW State Road 200

Ocala, FL 34481

352-873-6388

This is your typical Chinese, takeout only, in these Covid Days.

Ordered by phone, the Combination lunch portion, included white or pork fried rice and choice of Wonton Soup, Egg Drop Soup, Spring Roll or Soda. Wife ordered, Sweet and Sour Pork with white rice and spring rolls. I had, General Tso's Chicken with pork fried rice and spring rolls.

I arrived a little early and the order was ready. The portions was a smaller than other Chinese Restaurants. I was disappointed the General Tso's Chicken was more sweet than spicy. My wife's Sweet and Sour Pork was acceptable.

If you crave Chinese food, it will work but with small servings, you will be hungry shortly after finishing.

Everyone has their favorites when I comes to Chinese food. If I return, it's only due to convenience.

M. Frank Turner

Mark's Prime Steakhouse

30 South Magnolia Avenue

Ocala, FL 34471

352-402-0097

Your first step in the restaurant, you're greeted with a smile and made to feel you're the most important person in the establishment. The ambiance is very old world elegance with white tablecloths and perfectly set silverware on tables.

We was with a group and seat with Barbara and Bob. Our waitress took our beverage order, promptly returning with beverages and straight out of the over Sourdough Bread. She took our orders, we all unanimously ordered the filet.

We all had the Lettuce Wedge Salad, sliced cherry tomatoes and topped with bacon. I choose their in house created Blue Cheese Dressing, it made the salad flavorful as I never experienced. When our dinner was served, very tender filets, flavorful and cooked to perfection. We shared the sides of Mashed Potatoes, Sautéed Green Beans and Creamed Spinach.

For dessert my wife had Cheesecake. I had Chocolate Paradise; Chocolate Mousse, Oreo Crust, covered with Hardened Chocolate Shell, Raspberry Purée and Toasted Almonds.

I've been to some of the most famous Steakhouse in the US and other countries. Mark's tops my list! Their prices are the most reasonable as compared to the others, I've experienced. Make your special event with friends and family over the top with dinner at Mark's!

M. Frank Turner

Gruff's Dunnellon Florida...

Met my son and his family at Gruff's Restaurant. They wanted to try the Wings. There was a special 69 cent each not a bad price. Quality was good, service was good,

price was moderate and people were friendly. It was close to home 15 minutes. You can't beat that.

TomL

La Dolce Vita Gelato & Pastry

If you are looking for a great place to quiet your sweet tooth, look no further than La Dolce Vita Gelato & Pastry. Located at 6146 SW SR200 in the Jasmine Square plaza, this hidden gem offers the best truly Italian pastry in Ocala. Their cannolis are made with real Italian cream and their Tarimisu melts in your mouth. The gelato is home made and delicious with innovative flavors. My husband and I have visited several times since their opening and have never been disappointed in the quality of their product or the friendliness of their service.

Elaine M.

OCALA EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK

September through May

Downtown Ocala

Taking place the first Friday of each month, September through May from 6 to 9 p.m., this free event located in Ocala's historic downtown includes over 30 artist displays, monthly live entertainment, free family art activities provided by local arts organizations and extended shopping hours.

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FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody Announces \$113 Million Agreement with Apple Over iPhone Throttling

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today

announced a \$113 million agreement with Apple, Inc. regarding Apple's decision to throttle consumers' iPhone speeds in order to address unexpected shutdowns in some iPhones. Attorney General Moody is joined by more than 30 other attorneys general in reaching the agreement.

Based on the multistate investigation, Apple allegedly discovered that battery issues were leading to unexpected shutdowns in iPhones. Rather than disclosing these issues or replacing batteries, Apple updated software that reduced iPhone performance in an effort to keep the phones from unexpectedly shutting down.

The attorneys general allege that Apple's decision to throttle the performance of consumers' iPhones led to Apple profiting from selling additional iPhones to consumers whose phone performance Apple had slowed.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Countless Floridians depend on their iPhones daily for necessary professional and personal communication and pay significant fees for this service. It is essential that a widespread and trusted service provider such as Apple provide accurate and reliable information about performance issues and viable options if service is disrupted. I am proud of this action that will require Apple to be more transparent to consumers and hold them accountable for their actions that negatively impacted many Floridians."

Under the agreement, Apple will pay the Florida Attorney General's Office \$5,088,588. In addition to the monetary payment, Apple must also provide truthful information to consumers about iPhone battery health, performance and power management. Apple must provide this important information in various forms on its website, in update installation notes and in the iPhone user interface itself.

The consent judgment states:

- Apple will maintain easily accessible and prominent webpages that provide clear and conspicuous information to consumers about lithium-ion batteries and unexpected shutdowns. The webpages will provide guidance to consumers on steps they can take to maximize battery health;

- Apple will ensure its consumer-facing staff and Apple-authorized iPhone retailers are familiar with these webpages; and

- Apple will provide information to consumers in the iPhone user interface settings about the battery, such as the battery's maximum capacity and information about its peak performance capability.

In addition, Apple recently entered into a proposed agreement resulting from class action litigation related to the same conduct that requires Apple to pay up to \$500 million in consumer restitution.

The proposed consent judgment is pending judicial approval.

Attorney General Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution Secures Life Sentence for Child Sex Predator

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution has secured a life sentence for a Hillsborough county man that engaged in, and promoted, child sex pornography. The jury found Roger Labor guilty of lewd or lascivious molestation, two counts of use of a child in a sexual performance and 50 counts of possession of child pornography. The Honorable Michael Williams of Florida's 13th Judicial Circuit sentenced Labor to life for lewd or lascivious molestation and a total of 75 additional years for the remaining charges.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This disgusting excuse of a man will stay behind bars for life, right where he belongs. He is a predator and his actions were beyond vile and repugnant. I am so proud of the Office of Statewide Prosecution's hard work on this case and for making sure he never victimizes a child again."

Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Rick Swearingen said, "Heinous crimes like those committed by Labor have no place in civilized society, and I commend all those who worked tirelessly to bring him to justice. I hope this life sentence will help his victims to heal and will serve as a warning to those who would prey on the most vulnerable among us."

In 2017, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement received cyber tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children indicating that a Google user in Hillsborough county uploaded suspected child pornography. After further investigation, law enforcement seized numerous electronic items from Labor's residence. A forensic examination of the electronic items recovered more than 5,000 pornographic images. The investigation also

discovered two victims that Labor molested and used to promote child pornography.

Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Rita Peters and Diana Bock prosecuted the case.

MFCU Arrests Woman for Defrauding Medicaid More Than \$15,000

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Levy County Sheriff's Office arrested a woman for organized fraud and fraudulent use of personal identification information to defraud a Medicaid provider. Carolyn Ausherman allegedly forged fraudulent Medicaid employee service logs, defrauding the Medicaid program out of more than \$15,000.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "The Medicaid program provides necessary medical services to our most vulnerable citizens. To purposefully defraud this taxpayer-funded program for personal benefit is a gross injustice and exploitation of the patients dependent upon the care provided by Medicaid. I am confident my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit will continue to work diligently to hold accountable anyone who attempts to defraud the Medicaid program and taxpayer dollars."

According to the investigation, Ausherman entered into an agreement with an employee of a Medicaid provider wherein Ausherman used the employee's name to submit forged and fraudulent service logs to the Medicaid provider. The service logs submitted by Ausherman claimed that the employee provided caregiving services to the Medicaid recipient, a disabled adult. The investigation revealed that the employee never provided services to the disabled adult. The Medicaid provider issued paychecks to the employee that were then cashed and split with Ausherman.

To view the redacted PCA, go to <http://myfloridalegal.com/>

Ausherman faces one count of organized fraud and one count of fraudulent use of personal identification information, both third-degree felonies punishable up to five years in prison. The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit will prosecute the case through an agreement with the State Attorney's Office for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Beware of COVID-19 Texting Scam

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning taxpayers of a new COVID-19 related text scam that deceives recipients into disclosing personal banking information in order to receive a \$1,200 stimulus check. This latest scam impersonates the Internal Revenue Service. The Attorney General's Office reminds taxpayers that the federal government and

state agencies will never require personal banking information to be disclosed via text message to receive stimulus payments.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "As long as COVID-19 remains a threat, scammers will attempt every trick in the book to exploit taxpayers and coerce them into disclosing personal information. I encourage all Floridians to familiarize themselves with emerging COVID-19 scams, available on our COVID-19 resource webpage at MyFloridaLegal.com/COVID19."

The scam text message states the recipient received a \$1,200 direct deposit from COVID-19 TREAS FUND and requires further action for the payment to be deposited into the account. The text then directs the recipient to follow a fake phishing link.

The bogus phishing URL appears to be a state agency or relief organization's website. However, when clicked, the URL directs recipients to a website fraudulently impersonating the IRS. Scammers use the website with the goal of collecting the personal and financial information of individuals who visit the fraudulent site.

Those who receive this text should immediately report it to the IRS by sending a screenshot of the message to Phishing@IRS.gov with the following information:

- Date, time and time zone the text message was received;
- The 10-digit phone number that sent the text; and
- The recipient's mobile phone number.

The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division reminds taxpayers that the IRS will never send unsolicited texts or emails requesting personal information, call with threats of jail, lawsuits or demand tax payments on gift cards. If you receive any correspondence you believe to be fraudulent, report it to the Attorney General's Office by visiting MyFloridaLegal.com, calling 1(866)9NO-SCAM or downloading the No Scam app, available in English and Spanish, on all Apple and Android devices.

If you believe you are eligible for the Economic Impact Payment, please visit IRS.gov. If you do not have a filing requirement but are eligible for EIP, use the non-filers tool on the IRS website before Nov. 21 to claim the payment.

Earlier this year, the Attorney General's Office created the *Scams at a Glance* program, designed as a resource for Floridians to use for protection against fraud as the state and nation continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. The *Scams at a Glance* website provides downloadable brochures designed to teach consumers how to avoid falling victim to fraud, including an IRS Imposter Scams brochure.

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tloury@att.net



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FINANCIAL

The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-877-316-7129 (m)

SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Is the bank threatening foreclosure? CALL Homeowner's Relief Line now for Help 1-855-282-4732 Mon-Fri: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Sat: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm (all times Pacific) (t)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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