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Volume 24 Issue 4

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April 2021



A Banyan Residence open house Ribbon Cutting by Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce. Pictured of the owners in from left Blake, Brandon Anderson and Greg Anderson on the right, the lady standing in the back ground in the red jacket was mayor Ruth Kussard. Many questions were being ask during the many tours so we thought we would do a question and answer story. SEE AD ON PAGE 2

1. Let me tell you about A Banyan Residence. What services are available at the facility?

a. A Banyan Residence is an assisted living and memory care resort that is owned and operated by the founding family. Our family started in assisted living and memory care in 1998 with a unique concept that emphasized an independent and outdoor lifestyle that we've built into our design here in The Villages area. By dedicating three full acres to botanical butterfly gardens, waterfall koi fish ponds, walking paths, gazebos, and the like, we find seniors are able to relax peacefully in a home-like and comfortable environment. We also offer a giant clubhouse full of amenities to keep residents active from sun up to sun down. We have amenities such as a movie theater, hair salon, physical fitness gym, ice cream parlor, bistro, crafts room, library, and a state-of-the-art sensory room showing off cutting edge technology geared for senior living.

Beyond the building design itself, we are staffed and trained to provide any necessary assistance to keep our residents independent for as long as possible while still making sure their daily needs are met. Our custom culinary program is designed to provide exquisite meals that would go unrivaled in the industry. Our enrichment program keeps

seniors of all types stimulated, active, and social with both on-campus daily events but also in the community, such as attending polo matches, live concerts, restaurant openings, and so on. Finally, our care program allows for seniors to rely on our staff to bridge the gap physically and mentally to achieve independence in their day-to-day lives while maintaining dignity and integrity.

What is unique to our design is that our entire facility is considered both assisted living and memory care, so all of the amenities and grounds can be enjoyed by all. This characteristic allows families to rest easy that no matter what happens physically or mentally due to aging, they know that their loved one will never have to move rooms because the same level of care can be provided anywhere on property.

2. How long has opening this facility in the area been in the works?

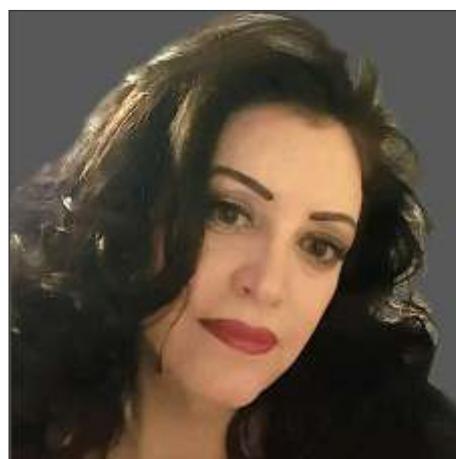
a. Our family began discussing building a community in The Villages nearly four years ago. Our founder, Greg Anderson, has a degree and background in construction prior to starting in senior living in the 90's. What is amazing is that over the past four years, Greg has been able to take a blank slate and combine his construction and design background with decades of assisted living experience to custom-design a community that structurally addresses issues seen in the industry. The entire process has been a collaboration among our family as partners and it's unbelievable to see the finished product. The attention to detail is extraordinary and some of the finer points can be overlooked if people don't take a tour with one of the owners.

3. Why open in The Villages area?

a. The culture in The Villages is



This is a photo of The FAIRtax Guys with Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-3) after recording the interview.



Meet Martha Hoffman. "Bringing The World To Your Door, Like Nothing Else You Are Doing, Will!" Martha's video's bring you a ground view, a slightly elevated view and a aerial view. All in a three dimensional view.



Diane Leaf Speaking at Ocala Business Leader about Champion for Champions.

something we have not ever experienced before but immediately fell in love with once we began to immerse ourselves. The population is friendly, social, active, and full of life, which is exactly the culture what we've aimed to create in our communities for decades. Our family felt the need that the growing community had for senior living options and we thought our values and principles were well-aligned with the soul of the community. We think that our unique concept and design is needed in every community that serves the assisted living and memory care population, but the local culture made it very easy for us to call this area our new home.

4. How do you feel about now being officially open?

a. Finally being open is such an amazing feeling! This has been our largest,

most complex, most difficult, and most rewarding project of our family's history. We used entirely local labor to help build the project and we can't thank them and the supporting community enough. We had plenty of sleepless nights and that doesn't even consider the global pandemic that was looming overhead threatening to alter the course of our destiny at any given moment. We're so grateful to have had a successful

*Continued page 4*

— Kevin Sheilley —

## OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



This column was prepared by the CEP and recently ran in Expansion Solutions magazine. It describes why companies are considering relocating to the Ocala Metro.

If the Ocala Metro is not on your company's search radar, it needs to be! Located at the crossroads of the Florida peninsula, the Ocala Metro is crossed by I-75 and is met by US Hwy 301 and just north of the Florida Turnpike. These intersections create the connectivity to service Florida's 22 million and growing population as well as providing

ease of access to the lower Southeast United States.

Is logistics important to your business? The all important one-days truck drive (6-hours each way) reaches 34 million people when centered on Ocala. This is a 39% premium over the I-4 corridor and connects Atlanta to Miami. This is key logistical fact is a primary reason companies like Amazon, AutoZone, Chewy, FedEx Ground, McLane, and Dollar Tree have opened new distribution facilities in the area in just the last few years.

Ocala prides itself on delivering facilities and permits almost as quickly as we can speed your logistics. Expediting permitting is not only a goal but a standard operating

procedure with local governments committed to partnering to ensure your spending time and capital on actually constructing facilities and not battling city hall. Shovel ready sites in the Metro are truly that – shovel ready. With nearly 2000 acres of fully infrastructure, ready to develop industrial sites, your business can find the site it needs today.

Looking for an existing facility? Currently, the Ocala Metro has nearly 4 million sq ft of spec and build-to-suit industrial in the works. From rear-load multi-tenant space to 1 million sq. ft. of premium cross-dock with interstate frontage, your next building is already in development in the Ocala Metro.

But don't think we are only about moving products. The Ocala Metro is unique in Florida with its strong manufacturing base. Nearly 10% of the local workforce is employed in manufacturing making everything from fire engines to cake sprinkles, missile control systems to laminated glass and everything in between. Key growing sectors in the manufacturing space include food and beverage and medical device.

This diverse and growing economy is one

reason the local workforce continues to grow. The Ocala Metro's population currently exceeds 370,000 people and is one of the 15 fastest growing metros in the nation. You may think Florida is for retirees (and we love our retirees) but the fastest growing segment locally is 30-39-year-olds. The growing economy along with plenty of sunshine and no personal income tax makes the Ocala area a natural for relocating talent from throughout the nation and world.

Finally, the Ocala Metro is not only growing but it is stable. The logistics and manufacturing sectors coupled with the health care, IT, and equine communities (did we mention we are the Horse Capital of the World®?), and you can see why the local unemployment rate is well below the state and national averages. In fact, the Ocala Metro is one of only a handful to grow jobs through the pandemic. The more jobs we grow, the more people relocate to this community, the more opportunity for you to find your next workforce.

But don't just take our word for it. Come visit (in person or virtually) and see for yourself. Learn more at OcalaCEP.com.



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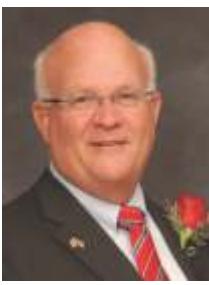
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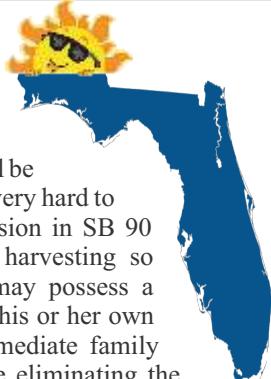
## DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,  
This is the last column of the 2021 Legislative Session and by next month we will be ready to report on what all transpired during our time in Tallahassee. This session may be one of the most impactful years we've had in the Florida Senate. Even though we've filed less bills than previous years, the substance of the few that we have are some really big lifts. Here's an update on some of those.

SB 90, a bill filed by your Senator, addresses a number of issues related to election administration and vote-by-mail. Simply put, we're looking to eliminate

potentially weak areas of our voting process and ensure Florida's citizens that it will be easy to vote, but very hard to cheat. One provision in SB 90 addresses ballot harvesting so that no person may possess a ballot other than his or her own and those of immediate family members. We are eliminating the use of drop boxes so that the ballot harvesting prohibition can be enforced and to prevent bad actors from having the opportunity to spoil ballots. The second largest provision in the bill expands the timeframe for canvassing vote-by-mail



ballots, providing that one vote-by-mail ballot request is good for all elections through the next regularly scheduled general election. Current law states that one request is good for all elections through the next two general elections. This change is necessary to provide voters with more flexibility to decide which method of voting they want to utilize, instead of being locked in for two cycles.

Just this week the Florida Senate passed SB 72, which shields businesses and health care providers acting in good faith from lawsuits related to COVID-19. The threat of frivolous lawsuits shouldn't be hanging over these organizations who have sacrificed much and are trying to safely reopen. Your Senator was a proud co-sponsor of this very good legislation and we're excited that this was one of the first bills to pass this session.

The Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability just approved SB 1606, which designates November 7 as

**Ocala Downtown/Seniors Voice - April 2021 Page 3**  
the Victims of Communism legal holiday in the State of Florida. While largely symbolic, this bill will serve as a reminder to our citizens that the voices of millions of victims throughout history cry out against the evils of communism and that we must be vigilant in putting down any attempt to normalize or accept this philosophy in our culture.

This is just a very small glimpse of some of the work that we are doing on your behalf in Tallahassee, and I look forward to providing a more detailed report upon our return to the district. If you have any questions about work we are doing on a particular subject, please call one of our offices and my staff will be happy to discuss in more detail.

Onward & Upward,  
Senator Dennis Baxley

## Ocala Wetland Recharge Park



### Ocala Wetland Recharge Park Grand Opening

The City of Ocala will host a grand opening for the Ocala Wetland recharge Park, 2105 NW 21st Street, Friday, April 2, 10 a.m.

The Ocala Wetland Recharge Park allows the City of Ocala to efficiently use its water resources. By developing this park, the City of Ocala Water Resources department helped to create a wetland ecosystem, improvement of water quality, boost regional groundwater supplies, and provide educational opportunities for all ages and stages.

#### Park Hours:

**Monday through Sunday  
Sunrise to Sunset or 7 p.m.  
whichever comes first**

#### **There is no fee to enter or park**

For more information about the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park visit [www.ocala.org](#) or call 352-351-6772.



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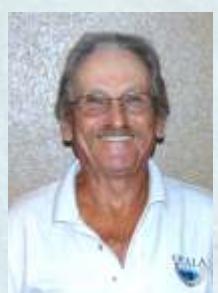
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**References needed for those who would like to be in this ad.**  
**To Add Your Picture Call Tom Loury 352-804-1223**

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



FREEDOM SHOT yes I heard a woman in a restaurant interview call her COVID-19 inoculation her Freedom Shot. Anthony Fauci got into a confrontation with Ron Paul over wearing a mask. I think Ron Paul said, "isn't it just theater?" If you get a Freedom Shot and you can't spread the COVID-19 and you can't catch it why would you wear a mask? Ron Paul is suppose to be a very highly respected ophthalmologist. So he can discuss this as a Doctor as well as a Senator. Rand Paul said to Fauci you have been vaccinated and your still wearing a mask. That is sending a message to the people we will never get back to normalcy.

\*\*\*\*\*

I read on the internet there were over 6,000 people died doing the pre 2022 World Cup work. Workers were from Qatar, Sri

Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and India. Some say the workers were Exploited and in some cases forced to work! The temperature in Qatar goes well over 100. Investigations are going on, more info in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

Blowing out someone else candle does not make yours shine brighter! It does make you the only person with a light candle!

\*\*\*\*\*

Close to home... Two local Dunnellon residents were arrested in connection with the Jan 6 riot at the Capital. As I understand they are part of a group called the Oath Keepers. They were not armed!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Recently went to a fund raiser. They were raising funds for a young boy who has been in Shane's fighting cancer for years. Local Ladies baked cakes, cookies, Banana Bread and such. I heard they raised \$14,000 dollars at the event.

\*\*\*\*\*

My Business account got Hacked for

several thousand dollars. Luckily we caught it early and I got my money back. But from what I understand it is harder to get your money back if they hack your Debit Card.

\*\*\*\*\*

I still am having trouble wondering why McConnell gave that speech criticizing Trump his Ally or he used to be his Ally???. The World was watching and he accused Trump of being morally responsible for the Jan 6 riot. Trump did not tell those people to invade the White House.

\*\*\*\*\*

Went fishing this month with my buddy Bill. It was mostly catch and release. I kept one fish for table. It was a nice Black Drum, what a fight. Very busy at the boat ramp trying to take the boat out, every time I would try to back the trailer in someone would rush in behind me. Finally one guy gave me a brake, I think I have seen him before. He is a nice guy, I think he had his Grandsons with him. My thanks to him!

\*\*\*\*\*

Life is not about how many breaths you take but by the moments that take your breath away.

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS!**  
**Let your voice be heard!**  
**Email tloury@att.net**

## Banyon Residence

*Continued from page 1*

ribbon cutting and the blessing and support from local elected officials as well as our own congressman. We're hopeful that we can contribute back to the community to thank them for the support we've gotten to this point.

5. Jennifer told me that the facility is designed almost inside out so every room is open to the outside and residents have free range of the area. Why design the facility in that way?

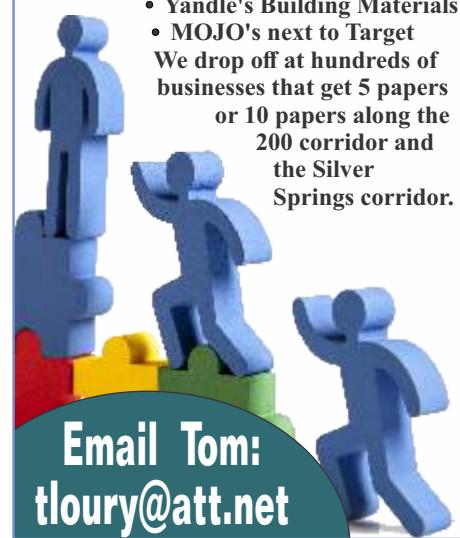
a. Seniors have had unrestricted access to nature and the outdoors their entire lives... why should that change when they move into a senior living community? It seems too easy for a community to be built with a labyrinth of fluorescent-lit hallways that have to be navigated before being able to get fresh air and our principles fundamentally disagreed with that idea. Many of these people owned homes where they could step out of their back door onto their patio to enjoy their own gardens. We took that same experience and projected it throughout our community, which is why we have butterfly gardens, fruit trees, fish ponds, waterfalls, etc. There is automatic value in being able to relax peacefully surrounded by nature and that lifestyle being just at your fingertips out your front door. It encourages enriched livelihood, independence, activity, and natural energy. The exposure to nature's light cycle also has very well-documented positive impacts on sleep schedules, moods, and behaviors. For someone that enjoys being outdoors in a lush tropical environment with sunlight and a breeze, we think we are the only community designed to capture that feeling.

Greg Anderson  
Brandon Anderson Administrator  
Brother—Anderson  
Jennifer Hutt Community Liaison

**Bringing our community together...**  
**Ocala Downtown • Seniors Voice of Ocala**

Locations to pick up papers

- Elks Club (OBL meeting)
  - Library Silver Springs Blvd
  - VA at the west end of the Cascades Plaza
  - Senior Center 8th Ave
  - Barbra Washington Adult Activity Center
  - Tax Collectors building
  - Health Department
    - Walt's Brake & More
    - Yandle's Building Materials
    - MOJO's next to Target
- We drop off at hundreds of businesses that get 5 papers or 10 papers along the 200 corridor and the Silver Springs corridor.



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

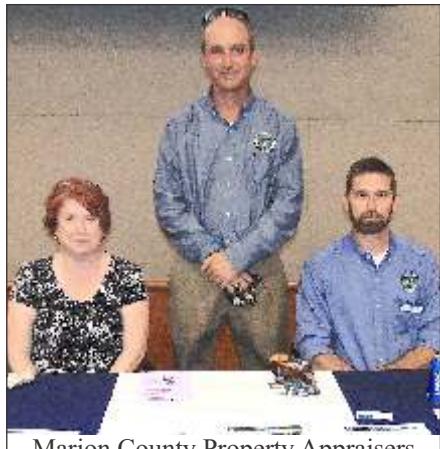
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**The Parade of Senior** and services for seniors in picture for the people to Services was held at the Marion County. The Event temporarily take off their College of Central Florida. was free and was put on by mask. Capacity was be Over 30 agencies were the Ocala Recreation and limited to allow for social available to provide Parks.

literature and answer your Face covers are required, I questions about programs ask while taking several



Marion County Property Appraisers



Marion County Election Center



ClearCaptions



Grace Huffman, Latoya Artis & Tish Bell



United Way of Marion County



Ocala Electric Utilities



CarePlus Health Plans



Champions for Champions



Ladies at Hospice

A large circular advertisement for "THE SOURCE". The circle is divided into two halves: the left half is blue with white text and the right half is white with black text. The text reads: "Your 'SOURCE' ON AIR for News, Talk, Music, Sports, Prizes, &amp; More! TUNE-IN". In the center of the circle, it says "THE SOURCE News-Talk-Music-Sports 96.3 1370 FM AM WOCA". The background of the ad features a collage of various images, including a car, a person, and a city skyline.

**ONE PERSON'S OPINION**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor:  
Me First!  
Biden had better put me first on the list before any illegal alien.

My roots go 4 generations of sweat equity in the bank, my children have 5 generations, and my grandchildren have 6, I deserve preferential treatment. Every penny for my children's college degrees was paid by my husband and myself. It was a major, major sacrifice. Now people who have sacrificed nothing are going to get what I earned. I do not think so.

We were an airline family, but went nowhere, because the money went for tuition.

Moving into a retirement community was an eye opener. Every one I met had traveled. I had nothing to contribute. No one thought the way that I did. Kids education came first.

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS!**  
Let your voice be heard!  
[Email tloury@att.net](mailto:Email tloury@att.net)



Now, I cannot stand by, and allow Goofy Biden to kick sand in my face.

I want my tuition back. That includes one medical degree, and 3 pilots licenses. Education, is education, plus 2 additional degrees.

Biden you can expect my bill, post haste. Fair is fair. I need to travel.

Any other real Americans being short shifted by Biden? Speak up.

Americans come first in the goodie bag line. We have equity.

Concerned Tax Payer!

Dear Editor:

When you are in a war, it helps to know what you know what the war is contesting.

When someone wages war against you, you need to know how to respond. This war by the left is over REPRESSIVE TOLERANCE. A philosophy espoused by another Frankfort School {the school of mischief makers} participant Herbert Marcuse.

Redemption from repressive tolerance is



through becoming Woke.

Woke is: anything the left imagines is an offense against anyone they can invent. It need not make any logical sense, or have any credence. Forcing other people to obey is the point, no matter the insanity of the proclamation. Just do as we say: loony tunes are the mantra of the day. Marcuse is infallible? God? Do as you are told, not what you believe. Your right to believe is rescinded. The Constitution has been shredded.

Will you refuse to be told what to do, what to think, what to say, how to act, or are you a competent human being capable of your own thought?

We just had a drastic example of the fallacy of the dipsey doodle logic. The recent cold winter points out the fallacy of the global warming theory. This planet has gone through climate change many times before we appeared, and survived those events. Global warming is a controlling excuse for the power hungry crowd. They will grasp at any excuse to take power. Global warming sounds like an excuse the gullible will swallow. It is working. Except during an ice storm. Time for a chuckle.

It would be helpful to look up repressive tolerance, then see where and how it is being

applied. Is it helpful, or silly? Do you follow or resist? We the People are supposed to have the power. Or are we in a dipsey doodle dictatorship?

Freedom, freedom, freedom, demands that I push back. I know there are 2 genders, lazy people, stupid people, ruthless people, and I must beware of misguided people. My life matters to me, everyone else butt out. I have managed quite well for many decades, despite the challenges life has thrown at me. Everyone is visited by challenges. Some more than others, and that does not seem fair. This is the human condition that needs work. It must be done without interference from life's other condition ruthlessness. When we know what we are dealing with maybe good people can come to some kind of equitable solution.

Number one priority: Solve the ruthless problem. Then we tackle the challenges. No philosopher has ever suggested solving the ruthlessness problem. It is about time. 2500 years is enough of ruthlessness.

Do not just listen to me, go do the research for yourself. Power is the curse of humankind. Time to end the carnage.

D.I.L.

**The Senior Fishing Derby** is tentative for **Monday April 26, 2021, 9am- 12pm.** Lunch is provided. For any question call

# 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.

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# MUSIC SERIES RETURNS

10 free concerts each Friday, April 16 – June 25, at Webb Field

OCALA, Fla. (March 11, 2021) – The Marion Cultural Alliance (MCA), in partnership with the City of Ocala was awarded the Levitt AMP [Your City] grant to host a fourth consecutive year, however, the series was postponed in 2020 due to safety measures for COVID-19. Staff worked with the Levitt Foundation and artists from the 2020 lineup to bring back the Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series in 2021.

The series will return April 16 to June 25 (excluding May 28 for Memorial Day), 7 to 9 p.m. and features ten free, family-friendly concerts to the public every Friday night. Concerts will take place at Webb Field at the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Complex located at 1510 NW Fourth Street. In the event of inclement weather, the concerts will move indoors to the E.D. Croskey Recreation Center, which now features improved acoustics and sound absorption through the installation of a functional art piece called "Patchwork Parable."

The series will feature a diverse lineup of high-caliber talent spanning a variety of musical genres. Each concert will also spotlight a local non-profit organization, that will conduct a special activity or performance during the intermission. Food will be available for purchase at each

concert. Blankets and chairs are encouraged. The series will also reflect safety measures through socially distanced seating areas across the field. Sanitation stations and procedures to sanitize high-touch areas will take place throughout the series. Stay tuned for the full lineup release.

"The activation of Webb Field through the Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series has brought investment to the surrounding historic neighborhoods and is catalyst to creating one of the city's three cultural arts hubs on the west side of Ocala," said Laura Walker, Cultural Arts and Sciences Division Head

"Marion Cultural Alliance is proud to partner with the City to bring back the Levitt AMP Ocala Music Series in 2021," said Jaye Baillie, Executive Director, Marion Cultural Alliance. "This series has reimagined and injected new life into the historic Webb Field with ten weeks of free concerts. The diverse lineup features acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award winning artists on the local, regional and nation circuits ensuring access to high-caliber performances. Bring your chair or blanket and join people of all ages and backgrounds who gather together to listen, dance, and sing."

For information, vending or sponsorship, please visit [www.ocalafl.org/levittamp](http://www.ocalafl.org/levittamp) or contact City of Ocala Cultural Arts at [artinfo@ocalafl.org](mailto:artinfo@ocalafl.org) or 352-629-8447. To learn more about the Levitt AMP series, visit the Levitt Foundation website at [www.levittamp.org](http://www.levittamp.org).

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**The Senior Fishing Derby is tentative for Monday April 26, 2021, 9am- 12pm. Lunch is provided. For any question call 629-8357**

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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.



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

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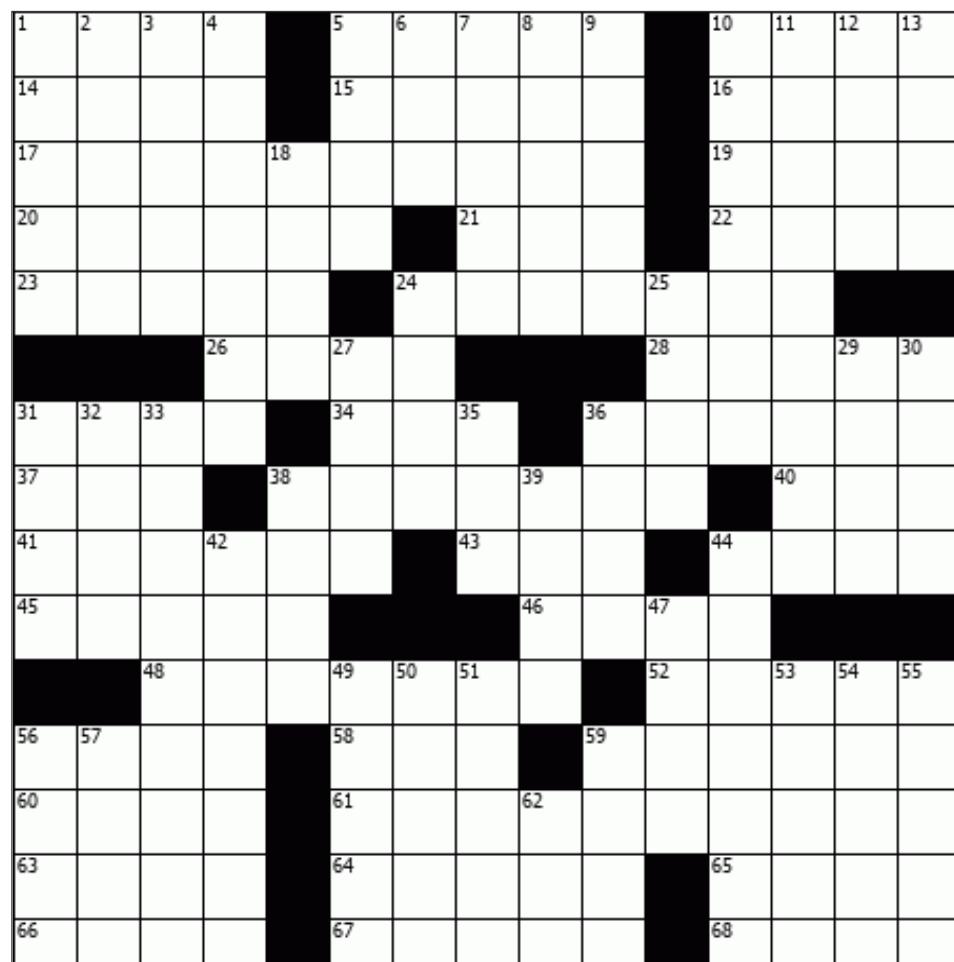
**Across**

1. Splendid display
5. Pleasant scent
10. King Kong's cousins
14. At any time
15. Talked nonstop
16. Lacking color
17. H.S. gym instructors
19. Sibilant "Hey!"
20. Steal, as a purse
21. Summer shirt
22. Seaman's yeses
23. Spot in the ocean
24. Yells
26. Regal address
28. Do not disturb
31. Part of a GP's schedule
34. Prints and paintings
36. Mystery author Queen
37. "It's chilly out here!"
38. WWII vessels
40. Dogpatch's Daisy \_

41. Pasta shape
43. Postpone, with "off"
44. Former fast fliers
45. Cook's cover-up
46. Robin's residence
48. Words of emphasis
52. Spotted
56. Not punctual
58. Electrical unit
59. Picnic salad ingredient
60. Sandwich-style sweet
61. CRTs and keyboards
63. Brazil neighbor
64. Fished for morays
65. You, biblically
66. Bridge position
67. Coral phenomena
68. Teacup handles

**Down**

1. Soft drink since 1898
2. Where roasts roast
3. Silver or steel
4. Diagnostic school exam
5. Foot feature
6. Pep rally word
7. \_\_ a customer
8. Edible mushroom
9. Photographer Adams
10. Clothing
11. Elec. Announcement



## Earth Day April 22nd

### Significance of Earth Day 2021

Earth Day 2021 is an event observed annually on April 22. It is a day held to demonstrate and promote environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet. Today, Earth Day, 2021 is celebrated in more than 193 countries each year.

### History of Earth Day

The equinoctial Earth Day is celebrated on the March equinox (around March 20) to mark the precise moment of astronomical spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and of astronomical autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. An equinox in astronomy is that point in time (not a whole day) when the

Sun is directly above the Earth's equator, occurring around March 20 and September 23 each year.

The history of Earth Day 2021 dates back to 1970 when it was first celebrated in 1970. It was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson to promote ecology and the respect for life on the planet as well as to encourage awareness of the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution. The first Earth Day celebrations took place in two thousand colleges and universities, roughly ten thousand primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States.

When 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. In 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest honour given to civilians in the United States) for his role as Earth Day 2021 founder. Today, it now is observed in 192 countries, and coordinated by the non-profit Earth Day Network.

### Traditions of Earth Day 2021

Traditionally, Earth Day 2021 is viewed as a time of environmental consciousness and awareness. It is usually celebrated with

outdoor performances, where individuals or groups perform acts of service to earth such as the planting of trees, picking up roadside trash, conducting various programs for recycling and conservation, using recyclable containers for snacks and lunches.

Some people are encouraged to sign petitions to governments, calling for stronger or immediate action to stop global warming and to reverse environmental destruction. Television stations frequently air programs dealing with environmental issues.

[www.calendar-365.com/holidays/earth-day.html](http://www.calendar-365.com/holidays/earth-day.html)

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## Teachers Learning Remotely

by Katherine Bihr, Ed.D

(NAPSI)—If you are among the nearly four million teachers in America, according to National Center for Education estimates, here are no-cost digital resources that can support your teaching during these challenging times.

### Educating Educators Digitally

School personnel can now sign up for a new series of six no-cost digital professional learning courses empowering educators with new strategies to support students' success in school and beyond. The professional learning series for educators presents schools, particularly those from under-resourced communities, the access and materials needed to transform teaching during COVID-19 and beyond.

The first in the planned series of six professional learning modules supports teachers by focusing on student-centered

approaches to foster innovative, relevant, and engaging STEM instruction. The module begins to redefine STEM by highlighting interdisciplinary learning, focusing on design principles and real-world connections, and rethinking skill building. Other modules focus on helping educators develop student-centered approaches, creating meaningful engagement strategies, promoting inquiry-based learning, and developing students' critical thinking skills.

Users can access lessons that are digestible and immediately actionable, with each module designed so educators can put it into practice immediately. Lesson guides and supports let the series walk alongside the teacher and ensure fidelity of implementation.

The digital modules are designed as examples of how to bring the real world into

the classroom. As teachers work to make learning relevant, it's important to hold up these models as exemplars of the importance of their work.

Great teachers are always looking for ways to ground themselves in frameworks that let them reflect and improve their practice. All of the modules in the TGR EDU: Explore initiative, created in partnership with Discovery Education, are grounded in the use of inquiry as a way to engage and have students own their learning. The digital learning modules have real people attached to each of the lessons, providing instruction and coaching in effective practice so that teachers can expand their expertise and meaningfully engage all learners.

### Learn More

For further information, visit [www.tgreduexplore.org](http://www.tgreduexplore.org).

*Dr. Bihr is Vice President of Programs and Education at TGR Foundation, A Tiger Woods*

*Charity, a nonprofit that empowers underserved students through education. To enhance classroom experiences around the world, TGR Foundation works closely with educators, taking their instructional skills to the next level with professional development learning modules, training videos and real-time digital workshops designed to improve the classroom teaching and learning experience. TGR EDU: Explore is a joint initiative with Discovery Education to deliver award-winning curriculum, family resources, and professional development to educators, students, and families nationwide.*



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**FROM THE DESK OF**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY**



**Beware of Resurgence in Stimulus Payment Scams as Millions of Floridians Anticipate Direct Payments**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians of the possibility of a resurgence in stimulus payment scams as another round of direct payments from the federal government head to Florida. As part of a massive COVID-19 relief package, direct payments from the Internal Revenue Service are headed to the bank accounts and mailboxes of millions of Floridians—creating the potential for new stimulus payment scams. Anytime a government benefit or program rolls out, scammers will try to exploit the situation for their own benefit.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “With many Americans set to receive direct payments from the federal government, we expect scammers will devise schemes to exploit the massive spending to trick recipients into parting with personal or financial information. Be smart. Seek out trusted sources of information about when your payment will be received and never respond to solicitations asking you to provide personal information or payment to receive a stimulus check.”

**Floridians expecting stimulus payments should know:**

- The IRS will never call a consumer directly, nor will the IRS send unsolicited emails, texts or social media messages;
- Recipients will not be required to make a purchase to receive a stimulus check;
- Offers advertising expedited delivery of the stimulus payment for a fee are suspicious and can be scams; and
- Solicitations asking receivers to click a link or provide sensitive information are probably scams.

**Some common signs of scams include:**

- Unsolicited calls or emails;
- High-pressure tactics or too-good-to-be-true offers;
- Threats of loss if immediate action is not taken; and
- Requests for immediate payment by wire transfer, credit, prepaid debit or gift cards.

Last December, to highlight potential stimulus payment and COVID-19 related scams and provide resources for Floridians to share with loved ones, Attorney General Moody's Scams at Glance program released two new downloadable brochures detailing information about how to spot common COVID-19 and stimulus scams to stop fraud in its tracks. The brochures are printable and available in both English and

Spanish.

Attorney General Moody launched the Scams at a Glance webpage in July 2020 to offer Floridians an online outreach program as the state and nation began to see a rise in scams brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The webpage is designed to provide consumers with information on how to spot and avoid falling victim to fraud.

To access Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance webpage, go to <http://myfloridalegal.com/scamsatglance>.

Additionally, Attorney General Moody has issued more than 30 Consumer Alerts with information about emerging scams and tips to avoid fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To view the latest alerts and to stay up to date on COVID-19 related scams, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Alert webpage at

<http://myfloridalegal.com/ConsumerAlert>.

To report fraud or file a complaint, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com) or call 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

For additional COVID-19 tips and resources, go to

<http://www.myfloridalegal.com/covid19>

**Attorney General Moody Takes Action Against Google for Anticompetitive Practices**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is taking action against Google for multiple violations of federal and state antitrust and consumer protection laws—including anticompetitive conduct, exclusionary practices, and false and deceptive misrepresentations in connection with its role in the multitrillion-dollar online-display advertising industry. Google also made false and deceptive misrepresentations to consumers regarding Google's privacy practices. Google's monopolization of online-display advertising involves an anticompetitive agreement with Facebook, making misrepresentations to users and customers, and suppressing competition. Attorney General Moody is joined by a bipartisan multistate coalition of 14 other state attorneys general in the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “For far too long, Google has used its size and position as one of the largest tech giants in the world to manipulate and unfairly monopolize the marketplace. The core of American economic success lies on our foundation of capitalism and a free, fair and competitive marketplace.

“Google knowingly and willingly monopolized the products and services used by advertisers in online-display advertising. The company also engaged in false and

deceptive acts while buying and selling the online-display ads. Through their monopolization and deceptive acts, Google greatly decreased other publishers' ability to monetize their content while simultaneously increasing costs to advertisers. Most of all, Google harmed consumers, including the millions of Floridians who use the search engine daily.”

The internet revolutionized the way people consume content and the type of ads that companies can purchase to reach consumers, including online-display ads. In addition to representing both the buyers and sellers of online-display advertising, Google competes directly against the buyers and sellers they separately represent—all while operating the largest exchange on which these ad products are bought and sold. Google exchanges trades in billions of ad impressions a day.

This action alleges that Google monopolized or attempted to monopolize products and services used by advertisers and publishers in online-display advertising. The complaint also alleges that Google engaged in false, misleading and deceptive acts while selling, buying and auctioning online-display ads. These anticompetitive and deceptive practices demonstrably diminished publishers' ability to monetize content, increased advertisers' costs to advertise and harmed consumers.

Florida is joined in this action by attorneys general from: Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Texas and Utah.

In October 2020, Attorney General Moody joined the U.S. Department of Justice, along with 10 other state attorneys general, in filing a civil antitrust lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to prevent Google from unlawfully maintaining monopolies through anticompetitive and exclusionary practices in the search-advertising markets.

**Attorney General Moody Takes Action Against Nationwide Debt Collection Agency Over Massive Data Breach**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today took action against Retrieval-Masters Creditors Bureau d/b/a American Medical Collection Agency resolving a multistate investigation into a 2019 data breach that exposed the personal information of more than 7 million individuals, including 1.25 million Florida residents. The data breach potentially exposed the personal information of up to 21 million individuals throughout the United States. Attorney General Moody is joined in the multistate action by 40 other state attorneys general.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “This data breach exposed the personal information of more than one million Floridians—jeopardizing their identities, finances and online security. I'm proud to work with my counterparts in other states to

strengthen this agency's security measures to help ensure any future personal information collected remains private.”

Retrieval-Masters Creditors Bureau is a debt collection agency. Under the name American Medical Collection Agency, the company specialized in small balance medical debt collection primarily for laboratories and medical testing facilities. An unauthorized user gained access to AMCA's internal system from Aug. 1, 2018, through March 30, 2019. AMCA failed to detect the intrusion, despite warnings from banks that processed its payments. The unauthorized user collected a wide variety of personal information, including Social Security numbers, payment card information and, in some instances, names of medical tests and diagnostic codes.

On June 3, 2019, AMCA provided notice to many states and began providing notice to more than 7 million affected individuals that included an offer of two years of free credit monitoring. On June 17, 2019, AMCA filed for bankruptcy as a result of the costs associated with providing notification and remediating the breach.

As part of the agreement, AMCA may be liable for a \$21 million total payment to the states. Because of AMCA's financial condition, that payment is suspended unless the company violates certain terms of the settlement agreement.

Under the terms of the agreement, AMCA and its principals have agreed to implement and maintain a series of data security practices designed to strengthen the company's information security program and safeguard the personal information of consumers. These include:

Creating and implementing an information security program with detailed requirements, including an incident response plan;

Employing a duly-qualified Chief Information Security Officer;

Hiring a third-party assessor to perform an information security assessment; and

Cooperating with the attorneys general investigations related to the data breach and maintaining evidence.

In addition to Florida, represented by Attorney General Moody's Consumer Protection Division Assistant Attorney General Diane Oates, the multistate group includes: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia.

The proposed consent judgment is pending judicial approval

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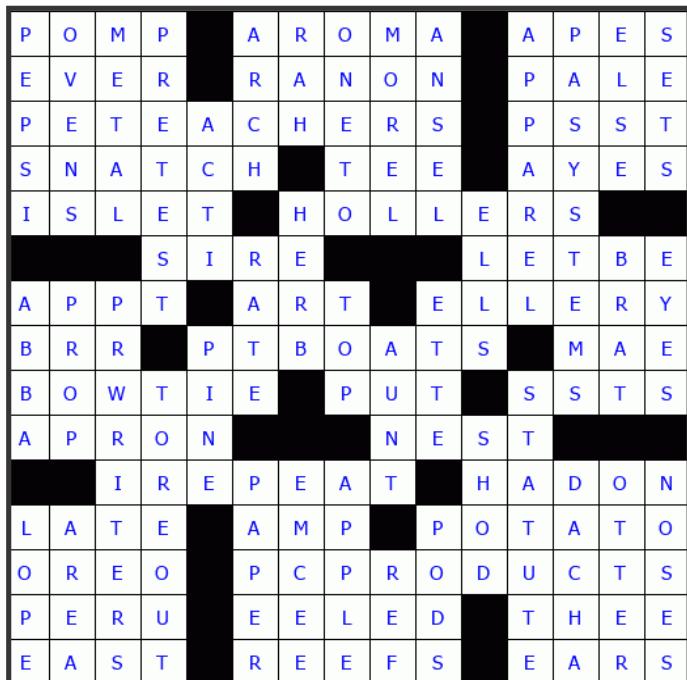
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