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Volume 40 Issue 6

June 2021

Take Me Home!



Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for Optimotion Orthopedics 5555 E SR 44 Wildwood, FL 34785 photo by Janet Fraley



May 20th Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening at Affiliated Title, 5805 E CR 462 Wildwood, FL 34785. Photos by Janet Fraley



Lady Lake Area Chamber After Hours event Hosted by Harbor Hills Country Club. Sponsored by Vitas, Bill Bryan, Florida Dermatology, United Southern Bank and UF Health The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation, Shelly Scarbrough. Photos by Janet Fraley



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Supreme Court Rules

Supreme Court Rules Warrant-less Home Gun Confiscation

In 2015, Edward Caniglia and his wife had an argument at their home Rhode Island. During the argument, Caniglia retrieved an unloaded gun from their bedroom. Mrs. Caniglia left. , Mrs. Caniglia called the police the next day to request a wellness check on her husband. At the home, the sergeant determined that Caniglia was in imminent danger to himself and to others. The police requested that Caniglia go to a hospital for psychiatric evaluation. Caniglia agreed based on a promise from police that they would not confiscate his guns. The sergeant seized firearms and ammunition from the home. Some time later, Caniglia attempted to get his firearms back from the police department on several occasions. His requests were denied. Caniglia filed suit in district court against the police department and city officials, alleging violations to the U.S. Constitution and to state law. The firearms were returned to Caniglia. The district court granted the defendants' motion for summary judgment. On appeal, the U.S. Court of appeal for the 1st Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling.



Our neighbors Harry and Terry Weber have a new born miniature Donkey named Clementine. She is so cute, the other day my wife and I were driving by and Clementine was laying in a hole with just her ears sticking up. It was so funny...

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AS I SEE IT

GUN LAW!

Constitution of United States of America 1789 (rev. 1992) Amendment II.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed".

Is it clear?

Maybe! Maybe not!

The first part includes 'Well Regulated' and 'free State' – doesn't that suggest that the original intent was that each State (I. E. the 'government') should legislate it's own amateur, 'Militia' to fight against any Federal infringement of States Rights?

Is the second part of the same sentence an 'explanation' not an 'expansion'?

Was it intended to clarify/confirm that the Federal government can't prohibit (infringe on) the right of those people (the members of the militias) to own weapons (to keep and bear arms)?

Was the intent that each State should have its own, armed military and that the Federal Government can't stop them? And, it is a fact that all 50 states prohibit private paramilitary groups.

That interpretation would mean that Amendment II in no way permits private individuals to have a gun!

But AS I SEE IT 'prohibition' doesn't work – never has and never will (in the USA).

Now the State of Texas has 'outlawed' Gun Control, voiding licensing and training.

*Except for 'under 21's' who will have to break the law and carry a gun, or 'Stand Your Ground' and pray!

Apparently, of the 15 million adults in Texas, only about one million have a handgun permit.

A Senator said that people with a criminal history are not included, but he wasn't asked when and how he would figure out who those people are.

Surprisingly, nearly 60 percent of Texas voters say that a gun permit should be mandatory, and the Law Enforcement community has pointed out that this law would put the lives of police officers, first responders and the general public at even greater risk."

"People who had never held a gun in their lives would be legally authorized to carry those guns almost everywhere," But supporters of the legislation say that the rising violent crime rate in major cities is due to Democrats failure to address the underlying problems in society.

Perhaps they are right!

The laws pertaining to the acquisition of firearms in Switzerland are among the most liberal in the world.

Switzerland allows semi-automatic, and fully automatic firearms (permit required), even by visitors with or without permanent residence.

Apparently their off-duty soldiers, all adult males, take their weapons home. Presumably hung up over the fireplace!

The unasked question is "Why is there so little gun violence? They don't have to buy a gun or steal one because there's a semi-automatic in every house!

Undercover Drug Operation

LAKE SHERIFF'S UNDERCOVER DRUG OPERATION LANDS 22 IN JAIL

The Lake County Sheriff's Office initiated Operation Basic Training during recent months, which was a joint investigation into a drug-trafficking organization operating throughout Central Florida. The Lake County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Clermont, Leesburg, and Eustis Police Departments all worked together to investigate narcotics-related crimes committed by mid- to high-level dealers associated with the organization. The Special Investigations Bureau concluded Operation Basic Training on April 28, 2021 with the execution of two residential search warrants within the city limits of Leesburg and thirteen arrest warrants for individuals charged in connection with their involvement with dangerous drugs.

Detectives executed search warrants for one storage unit, one passenger car, and four residences. The long-term investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately \$13,000 in U.S. currency and trafficking amounts of cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamine. Detectives also seized several pounds of marijuana, cocaine-laced marijuana, and a small quantity of Oxycodone. The street value of the seized narcotics is estimated to be more than \$50,000 dollars. Ten assorted firearms were recovered during the search warrants, four of which were reported stolen from other jurisdictions throughout Central Florida.

Twenty-two individuals were charged with a variety of drug-related crimes throughout the investigation. These charges range from trafficking in cocaine and trafficking in methamphetamine to sale of

heroin/fentanyl within a thousand feet of a church. Many of the arrestees were charged with multiple felony drug offenses.

This operation was a concerted effort to target and combat the heroin and opioid epidemic, as overdoses throughout the state and beyond continue to rise.

"This is a fight we have to fight together, and we will keep fighting to put these dealers out of work here in our county," said Lake County Sheriff Peyton Grinnell. "We are thankful for the strong partnerships we have here with our fellow law enforcement agencies, as well as our citizens, and will continue working together with them to keep Lake County safe."

Leesburg Police Chief Rob Hicks added, "The Leesburg Police Department is very pleased with the outcome of this investigation, and the ongoing investigative efforts by all involved agencies. Cooperative investigations, such as this, enhance the quality of life for our citizens and improve the overall safety of our children and communities alike."

Drug Bust In Tavares

TWO MEN ARRESTED IN DRUG BUST IN TAVARES

On May 13, 2021, the Lake County Sheriff's Office's Special Investigations Bureau, with the assistance of the sheriff's SWAT team, executed a search warrant at 31726 Tropical Shores Drive in Tavares. The residence was believed to be a known location where narcotics were commonly used and sold.

Three adults and four juveniles were located in the residence at the time the search warrant was served.

A search of the residence yielded 29 grams of Fentanyl, 8 grams of heroin, one High Point .45 cal. semi auto pistol, 72

Continued page 3

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
The 2021 Legislative Session (and the ensuing Special Session on Gaming) has concluded. It feels good to be back in Senate District 12 with my family and friends.

Thanks to Senate President Wilton Simpson, House Speaker Chris Sprowls and Governor Ron DeSantis, we accomplished much and we are very proud of the strong position that

Florida is in for the future. For the next two or three columns, we will highlight some of the work we did as a body, on behalf of the citizens of Florida. This month, we will report on the budget.

A quick note: In the last two columns, we have highlighted extensively our elections integrity bill and we are excited to report that the bill was approved by the legislature and signed by the Governor.

The legislature approved a \$101.5 billion

balanced budget that leaves \$6 billion in state reserves, while making key investments in infrastructure, child welfare, and increasing the state employee minimum wage. The budget also included bonuses to our hardworking state and local first responders, teachers, and childcare providers, and nearly \$1 billion will be provided to reimburse health care employees and emergency responders for childcare expenses incurred during the pandemic.

The Legislature further increases an already unprecedented level of per student funding for K-12 education, and increases our allocation to again raise teacher salaries. Totally spending for education in Florida is

nearly \$40 billion and is the second most significant portion of state spending, right next to healthcare. Do not let anyone tell you that Florida does not invest in education!

Health and Human Services represents \$45 billion of state funding. This year we ensured that our Medicaid program remains fully funded, as well as the KidCare Program, which provides high quality health insurance for 229,000 children in Florida.

Significant investments are made to expedite water quality improvements and environmental restoration projects, as well as replenish the funds available for state highways projects, which declined last year as people spent more time at home due to the pandemic. Total funding for environmental and agriculture projects comes in at around \$4.4 billion. This includes immediate spending of \$111 million to fund project grants and planning for threats from flooding and sea level rise.

The best part about all of this? These responsible and strategic investments are made without needing a state income tax and without taxing businesses to death like they have done in New York and California. Our budget is half the size of New York, and we have more people than they do. Yet, by keeping taxes low and allowing people more freedom, we can ensure Florida continues on its path towards a full economic recovery, and positions our state to address any potential challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley

Drug Bust

Continued from page 2

grams of marijuana.

Eddie James Mcholder, 38, was charged with trafficking in Heroin, possession of ammunition by a convicted felon, armed trafficking in fentanyl, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Jaylon Buggs, 21, was charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams with intent to sell and possession of paraphernalia.

Both males were arrested and transported to the Lake County Jail without incident.

Eye On Health



As you age, you're increasingly likely to develop cataracts—your eye's natural lens becoming cloudy. Fortunately, an ophthalmologist can surgically remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial one. If the cost of an eye exam concerns you, the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Eye-Care America program may help. This national public service provides eye care by volunteer ophthalmologists for eligible seniors and others, mostly at no out-of-pocket cost. Learn more at a-a-o-dot-org-slash-e-y-e-care-america.

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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



I remember our history studies in school about the Holocaust. I wondered, how did Hitler get millions of people follow passively to their death and not fight back??? Suddenly I realized we Americans are taking the same path!

Socialism is free stuff. Sounds great, where does the free stuff come from? What happens when the company or people get tired of supplying free stuff? Socialism is tax the rich to feed the poor. Kind of like Robin Hood who really did not do what they claim. Remember Robin Hood was a bandit, a bad guy. When the rich don't want to be taxed any more they take their money and move out of the country where the tax is not as bad.

The second big problem with Socialism is there is no middle class. The powers to be

have to get the middle class dependent on the Government hand out. Then there is only two classes. The upper class (the wealthy) and the lower class (the dependent's). As a dependent you lose your ambition, sense of pride and the sense of right from wrong. If you and your family are hungry, you will do what's necessary to survive.

People keep relating these recent problems with history. I don't think there is any correlation to compared these times with anything we have every experienced. I think the pipe line shutdown was to teach us a lesson about who is in charge. In Cuba when a person in a certain neighborhood does something the Government does not like the government shuts down the electricity to that neighborhood, one block two blocks three blocks or the whole east coast...get the picture.

I am concerned but not afraid and if I was I would not let them know. I am to old to charge up a hill in battle but I WILL STAND MY GROUND!

WORLD MURDER STATISTICS

From the World Health Organization

The latest Murder Statistics for the world:

Murders per 100,000 citizens per year.

ALL (109) of the countries have 100% gun bans.

1967 per hundred thousand citizens in the world

It might be of interest to note that SWITZERLAND is not shown on this list, because it has... NO MURDER OCCURRENCE!

However, SWITZERLAND'S law requires that EVERYONE:

1. Own a gun.

2. Maintain Marksman qualifications ... regularly.

Did you learn anything from this??

I think the message is - loud and clear...

I will never forget the speech where Nancy Pelosi said... "Donald Trump will never serve another term NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!"

Now Biddon's first one hundred days he has attempt to undo every executive order that Trump did and he is trying to take credit for Warp Speed. It has cost the people of this

country dearly. Biddon does not seem to care or maybe he don't understand, he is just another empty suit that wants to be cool!

MISSING AT THE BORDER Kamala Harris!

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Editorial & Ad Copy for July

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, June 18th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, June 23rd

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Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Season is upon us in Florida. The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1 through November 30, 2021. The NOAA forecasters predict a 60%

chance of an above-normal season. The time to prepare for the hurricane season is when you have time and are not under pressure. The Lady Lake Police Department would like to encourage all residents to begin preparations for this anticipated busy hurricane season now, before the season gets into full swing. Some things to consider during your preparations should include,

- Formulate an evacuation plan and an alternate plan
- Keep a first aid kit and check that it is stocked
- Plan on at least one gallon of drinking water per person, per day (at least 3-5



- days)
- Stock supplies of non-perishable food items like peanut butter, cereal, granola bars and dried fruit for at least 3-5 days
- Have at least a 7 day supply of medications
- Flashlight
- Extra Batteries and portable chargers
- Personal hygiene items
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents
- Make sure that cats and dogs are wearing collars and identification tags that are up to date
- Put your cellphone number on your pet's tag (or a relative/friend's number in case you need to evacuate)
- check in advance to find out about pet-friendly shelters and special needs shelters if required

Additionally, help your neighbors. Many people, especially senior citizens, rely on the assistance of neighbors before and after a hurricane. Help your neighbors collect supplies they will need before the storm or assist them with securing their residences. Assist them with evacuation if needed or ordered to do so. Check on them after the storm when it is clear and safe.

With proper preparations and planning ahead you may remain safe in an emergency.

Volunteers Wanted



Rebuilding Small Businesses: Volunteers Wanted

(NAPSI)—If you or someone you know is a successful corporate executive with deep business knowledge; a social media maven who guided a corporate brand to big time success; a public speaker and trainer who can inspire small business owners to climb to new heights of success; or a savvy entrepreneur who has launched successful startups, there's exciting news for you.

Consider volunteering with SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors and help small businesses recover from the economic devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Your skills are valuable, needed and appreciated by small business clients and entrepreneurs," said SCORE CEO Bridget Weston. "Volunteer to join our community of more than 10,000 volunteers in 1,500

communities. You'll find a wealth of support and build back small business where you live."

Only about a third of small business owners reported turning a profit in 2020. Black and Hispanic-owned small businesses were particularly hard hit. Only 8.8% of Black business owners and 6.7% of Hispanic business owners reported profitability and growth last year, according to research conducted by SCORE.

SCORE welcomes all volunteers and offers a variety of ways to get involved based on the time you have to give and your interests and expertise. You don't have to be retired to volunteer with SCORE (which was formerly known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives), notes Weston. Today, half of SCORE's volunteers are actively employed or running their own businesses.

Volunteer roles include:

Subject matter expert—Volunteer 2-10 hours per month and consult with mentors and business owners to answer questions in your area of expertise. Share your know-how and professional knowledge in e-commerce, accounting, human resources, social media or anything else and be an invaluable resource for small business owners.

Local workshop presenter—Share your mastery of a business topic or strategy and deliver local business training for small business owners. The time required can be as little as 2-10 hours for each presentation.

Business mentor—SCORE mentors

Continued page 8

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*PALACIOS et al., Evaluation of Femaxeen® for control of urinary incontinence in woman. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. 2020 Maturitas 133; 1-6



ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Bob of the Villages

Again, I feel the need to write to your column, as I have heard so much controversy in the news that I find quite disturbing. First... The election was NOT stolen by the Biden party. Trump lost...Biden won. Its as simple as that. Vote counts and recounts have proven it and the election has been certified by conservative election officials too. Not a shred of proof about massive election fraud.

Next.. Trump said that maybe bleach can be injected to vaccinate against covid.OK Trump, you first. Next, Trump wants to see manufacturing brought back to America, but on national TV, it was shown that the Trump brand of clothing was made in China. And as to how great a businessman he is, what about this. Trump Taj Mahal, bankrupt...Trump steaks, Bankrupt...Trump vodka, Bankrupt...Trump water, bankrupt .Yeah, he's a really great businessman. Also, he misused funds from his foundation to benefit himself, resulting in the State of NY shutting it down. And don't forget Trump University...fined and closed for false and misleading claims. And what about the tradesmen and companies that did work on Trump buildings? 3000 law suits against Trump for non-payment of bills.

What about the seditionists that attacked our national capitol building. You heard it from their own lips..."Trump sent us". My God, I felt like I was watching a scene from a third world dictatorship. And why did Trump wait so long to send a luke warm message for the rioters to stop?

I have a suggestion to all Trump supporters. Try watching news stations other than Fox news...Give a chance to CNBC, CNN that way they can balance out

what they are absorbing about national events.

Finally, don't you all get sick and tired of Trump continually whining about how everything is so unfair to him? I will have more comments in the future...providing that my letters are not ignored by your newspaper, which, incidentally, I enjoy a great deal. Keep up the effort.

Bob from the Villages

Publishers Note: Bob I would not ignore you letter, I want peoples opinion in the papers even if I don't agree. My job is to print your opinion!

Dear Editor:

Critical brain theory. Opinion vs. knowledge. Mouth vs brain. Bottom feeders have nothing but mouth to offer. Knowledge is a foreign concept to bottom feeders. That is the reason dialogue is not possible, and rioting, looting, and destruction are the bottom feeders weapons.

Brain vs. bullying is the cause for the prohibition of a happy life for everyone. Everyone must have the opportunity to pursue a happy life with the gifts God gave them.

We hear the excuse that some have privileges an excuse, the minority has been given privilege for decades, if the majority is greater in numbers in certain areas how, could they not be, they are a majority in numbers. Stop the silliness. A goofy professor got hold of Hippies in the 60's and brainwashed them into feeling they were being put upon. And they ate it up, And have ran with it to the extreme, even though many of them have become extremely privileged. The difference seems more weighted to the complainers. When you buy one million

dollar home after the other, where is your justification for complaining?

What the bottom feeders want is more unfair advantage for us. Not fairness. You are entitled to what you will work for. I agree there are ruthless people who do have unfair advantage and we need laws to reign them in. At one time we had trust busters reigning in ruthless people, today they are robbing wild, unchecked. When did anyone sell a product and still retain control of that product? Tell customers when, where, how, how long they can use s product before it is obsolete and unusable? Is that not cheating?

The brainless bullies cannot be allowed to bully the knowledgeable.

Opinion is no substitute for knowledge.

D.I.L.

Dear Editor:

A negative power lusting agenda, by bottom feeders, who grab any negative concept they can find. Use them to falsely accuse others, and use bullying tactics to enforce these falsehoods on good people. Good people must resist to save their sane way of life. A perfect example of bottom feeders are the three leaders of BLM. A million dollar house here a million dollar house there a million dollar house everywhere. What a fun game this is.

Every generation has its group of ruthless power lusting monsters, and this generation has a bumper crop.

There are multiple groups vying for control. Fighting them off is a monumental task. But we cannot relax and become lazy, we must remain vigilant. If we back down we condemn ourselves to an existence of torment.

This crop of ruthless are especially vicious. Look at what they propose. Theories without proof. Nutty notions they get in their minds, that they force on us, but not on themselves. That should be the first best clue what they are up to. Kerry flying on

a private jet half way around the world to receive a phony baloney award. Perks for me but not for thee. This is the way the ruthless game is played.

Number one issue that needs attention. The nutty idea that you can be a country without a border has got to be rectified We need our border back, immediately. Something is wrong with Biden. If there is no border there is no country. What is he president of? No country, no need for a president.

Know of a group of men who discuss these matters at the golf club, however think it will take a little more than a golf club discussion to thwart this problem. Time to get tough.

We sit and discuss, while they riot loot, and destroy property . They are bottom feeders incapable of discussion. Nothing in their upper stories.

We should be ashamed allowing a bunch of good for nothings besting us. Where did this notion come from that I [WE} are responsible for every person in the universe? When we were in the depression, no one was responsible for us. Was told my father sat in a chair and cried because he had no money to buy food to feed us. We owe them opportunity not food shelter clothing, education, and health care. My father wanted a job, not a handout. How things have changed. If you expected health care you had to have \$5 in your pocket.

Because you live like a creampuff does not mean everyone will. Unless you care to pay for all the free stuff people in the world. Let us not get sidetracked. Freedom is our primary issue. Nobody has the right to tell me how to live, the last I heard God gave me the right to live free.

The difference today, is day and night, between the Greatest Generation. and today's Dipsey Doodle Ruthless generation.

D.I.L.

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Alzheimer's Disease



New Hope for People with Alzheimer's Disease

(NAPSI)—There could be promising news for the more than six million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and the people who care for them.

The Problem

Although nearly one in every three people will eventually be afflicted and it's the third leading cause of death of older adults in the U.S. (surpassed only by heart disease and cancer in non-pandemic years), there may be effective treatments on the horizon.

An Answer?

One contender is about to start a Phase I clinical trial. It's a novel drug known as NVG-291 and it's designed to repair damaged nerves. Originally developed by NervGen Pharma Corp. (TSX-V: NGEN) (OTCQX: NGENF) to treat spinal cord injury, it soon became apparent that the drug may be healing nerve damage at a biologically fundamental level. That suggests it can also help people who have multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease.

Why It May Work

According to NervGen President & CEO Paul Brennan, NVG-291 is a truly unique and logical approach to treating Alzheimer's disease patients. "What differentiates NVG-291 from other drugs in development is that it leverages multiple

mechanisms for repairing nerve damage," he explains, "while most others focus on a single approach. Alzheimer's disease is a complex condition and likely caused by multiple factors. We believe that a systems approach to treating the disease is an important distinction."

NVG-291 is designed to achieve this by liberating the body's own repair mechanisms to accelerate nerve repair. When nerve damage occurs, either as a result of an injury or disease, molecules called chondroitin sulfate proteoglycan, or CSPG, accumulate and inhibit the body's ability to repair itself. NervGen's technology is designed to counteract this inhibition and result in the initiation of multiple repair mechanisms, including nerve regeneration and remyelination - the repair of the protective coating of the nerves. It should also improve plasticity, which is where surviving nerves take on additional function.

There are two additional mechanisms that are seen to be very important in treating Alzheimer's disease. Data in animal studies show that inflammation in the immune cells of the brain is reduced and autophagy, a cellular cleaning mechanism necessary for healthy neurons, is promoted. Researchers believe the same nerve-rejuvenating biotechnology can be adapted to remedy this mind-desecrating disease.

Currently approved Alzheimer's disease drugs merely address symptoms, whereas NVG-291 should act at a more fundamental level to let normal repair mechanisms kick in to create a favorable environment for nerves to grow and form entirely new nerve connections, according to Brennan.

The ability to bring to bear numerous mechanisms of repair, including two that are increasingly viewed as critical to addressing Alzheimer's disease, represents an unprecedented medical breakthrough.

Learn More

For further facts on the clinical trials and NervGen, visit www.nervgen.com.

Volunteers

Continued from page 5

provide hands-on assistance to local small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs, helping develop business plans and a road map for growth. Mentors have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, as well as broad expertise as a business owner or upper-level manager. This role requires training and then 15-20 hours per month of volunteer time.

The benefits of volunteering with SCORE include networking with local and national business experts and building new community relationships through the local SCORE chapter, notes Weston. Volunteers also expand their own skill sets through training and receive local and national recognition. Helping others is extremely rewarding, and many SCORE volunteers value supporting the small business community where they live and knowing they are making a genuine difference.

Volunteering through SCORE creates a positive, tangible affect. In 2020, SCORE volunteers donated nearly four million hours of service and helped start 45,027 new businesses. They also supported the creation of 119,562 jobs and mentored 143,651 small business clients, many of whom reported higher revenues and business growth.

"My hard work is worth it when I read the e-mails saying how grateful people are for SCORE's help," said Toma Talpa, a volunteer with SCORE Chicago. "I chose SCORE because of its mission and because of the people who volunteer. They are all passionate about helping entrepreneurs and business owners achieve their goals. It always amazes me that all of the resources and national workshops that SCORE provides are free to anyone."

To get involved, apply at score.org/volunteer. The SCORE chapter will reach out to learn more about you and to share information about onboarding and training.

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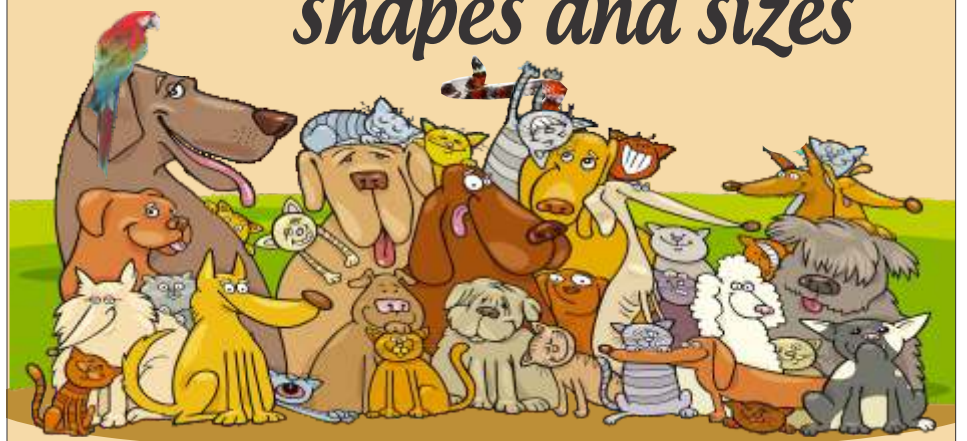
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(Matthew 11:28-30)

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FROM THE DESK OF GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces More Than \$765 Million in Record Funding for Teachers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis was joined by teachers, school

principals, and superintendents in Baker County, Sarasota County and Okaloosa County to announce a total of \$765 million in funding to support Florida's teachers. These investments include \$550 million to continue elevating minimum teacher salaries, as well as \$215 million to provide all of Florida's eligible public school principals and teachers with \$1,000 disaster relief payments.

Governor DeSantis worked with the Florida Legislature to fight for continued funding to support Florida's teachers through the Florida Leads budget, and for the \$550 million to continue to raise minimum teacher salaries represents an additional \$50 million over last year's historic \$500 million investment. Over the past year, minimum pay for Florida's teachers increased by an average of \$6,000 from \$40,000 to \$46,000. Overall, 68 of Florida's 74 school districts (92 percent) now have a starting salary of \$40,000 or higher.

"While most other states locked down their schools, Florida followed the science and opened our schools for in-person instruction, five days a week," said **Governor DeSantis**. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of our teachers and school leaders Florida succeeded where so many other states failed. I can't thank them enough for their hard work and dedication during this school year and these bonuses are a small way to say thank you on behalf of our state. My thanks also go to Speaker Sprowls, Senate President Simpson, Senator Stargel, and Representative Trumbull for their leadership during the 2021 legislative session to make this funding a reality."

"Governor DeSantis has proven once again that Florida is the Education State," said **Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran**. "His exceptional leadership and bold vision has taken Florida's minimum teacher salaries to an average of \$46,000, and his focus on celebrating and elevating our educators is unparalleled. The way to ensure that Florida has the best teachers is to outpace the nation in minimum teacher pay and to reward, recruit, and retain the best teaching talent possible. Thank you to the Florida Legislature for heeding the Governor's

request to prioritize our state's educators."

CFO and State Fire Marshal Jimmy Patronis said, "Since day one, Florida's teachers and first responders have been on the frontlines of the pandemic, working tirelessly to protect our communities and care for our students. The bonus checks that Governor DeSantis proposed, and secured from the Legislature, means a lot to these educators, our first responders and their families who endured through this crisis with them. These heroes are the backbone of our communities and today the Governor sent a clear message that Florida loves and appreciates their hard work and dedication. I thank Governor DeSantis for his leadership throughout these challenging times and for putting families first as we work together to move Florida forward."

"Dedicated teachers across Florida have gone above and beyond over the last 18 months to make certain our students have every opportunity to continue to make learning gains in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic," said **Senate President Wilton Simpson**. "In addition to increases in funds available specifically for teacher salary increases, I hope these bonuses will demonstrate just how much our state appreciates and values the contributions of Florida's teachers."

"During this pandemic, we were reminded of the importance of Florida's teachers to our children," said **Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls**. "While other states kept their schools closed, Florida opened them up and allowed students to return to normalcy. I applaud Florida's teachers for stepping up and giving students the ability to learn in-person, from the classroom. Thank you Governor Ron DeSantis for these bonuses."

"We are so proud of the work our teachers have done over the last year, innovating every step of the way," said **Senator Kelli Stargel**. "They have had to make so many adjustments and have worked so hard to make sure every child has a chance to learn. This bonus is so well deserved, and along with an increase in our teacher salary increase allocation, demonstrates our commitment to Florida teachers and the service they provide to our state."

"Ensuring that our children had access to in-person education during the COVID-19 pandemic was perhaps the most important task our state faced in the past year," said **Representative Jay Trumbull**. "Florida's teachers and principals went above and beyond this school year under unprecedented circumstances. I would like to thank Governor DeSantis and Speaker Sprowls for their tireless leadership in

securing this well-deserved \$1,000 bonus for the heroes in Florida's classrooms."

Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Bill to Safeguard the Sanctity of Florida Elections

Florida Leads on Election Integrity and Transparency

West Palm Beach, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law Senate Bill 90, Florida's new election integrity bill, strengthening voter identification, prohibiting the mass mailing of ballots, banning ballot harvesting and prohibiting private money from administering elections in our state.

"Florida took action this legislative session to increase transparency and strengthen the security of our elections," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Floridians can rest assured that our state will remain a leader in ballot integrity. Elections should be free and fair, and these changes will ensure this continues to be the case in the Sunshine State. I'd like to thank our legislative leaders on this issue — Senate President Wilton Simpson, House Speaker Chris Sprowls, Senator Dennis Baxley, and Representative Blaise Ingoglia."

"Florida leads the nation in election reforms because the Florida Legislature and Governor have taken a proactive approach to review and address any election issues," said **Senate President Wilton Simpson**.

"Safeguarding and maintaining the integrity of our elections is important to all of us. We all lose when people have no confidence in the integrity of an election. That's what we want to avoid. We don't want to backslide. Florida was a model for the nation in November, and that is something we can all take pride in. With this legislation, we are codifying provisions of the Governor's executive order that were largely credited as a reason Florida's 2020 general election went so smoothly, and why results were available much quicker in Florida than in many other states. I appreciate the Governor's leadership on this important issue."

"Floridians have more options to cast their ballot than ever before. With that variety must come assurance of security, accountability, and transparency," said **House Speaker Chris Sprowls**. "The bill Governor DeSantis signed today will protect our election procedures and provide voters with confidence that our elections will remain accessible, efficient, and secure. The right to vote should never be taken for granted, and we must always strive to improve the processes that establish the foundation of our democracy."

"Florida's leaders have answered the call to ensure that our elections process remains secure and credible," said **Senator Dennis Baxley**. When it comes to the integrity of our free and fair elections, our state did not

wait until something went wrong. Instead we were proactive in our responsibility to ensure that Florida voters are confident that their vote is being counted. Thank you, Governor DeSantis, for your leadership and for helping us make Florida a place where it is easy to vote and very hard to cheat."

"This legislative session, we set out to improve and strengthen the integrity of elections," said **Representative Blaise Ingoglia**. "We set out to ensure safe, secure and trusted measures for voting, and we prevailed. I thank Governor DeSantis for his vote of confidence to carry such landmark legislation that will restore confidence in the most sacred right we have as Americans."

Senate Bill 90 strengthens existing voter ID laws, bans ballot harvesting, prohibits unsolicited mass mailing of ballots, increases election transparency, and prohibits private money from administering elections. While Florida already requires identification to vote, Senate Bill 90 will require additional identification information when changing any voter registration information, or requesting a vote by mail ballot, preventing fraud and securing the voter rolls.

The proposal strikes a reasonable balance for families and those in elder care facilities while simultaneously banning ballot harvesting by political operatives. Under this law, a person may not handle more than two ballots other than those of immediate family members. There is an exemption for ballots collected during supervised voting at assisted living facilities and nursing homes to make sure no undue burden is caused for Florida's most vulnerable.

The proposal bans the mass mailing of ballots, ensuring that vote-by-mail ballots are only sent to the individuals that requested them, and only if requested for each election cycle they intend to vote by mail. The bill also increases election transparency, allowing each political party and candidate guaranteed access to observe signature matching reviews by the canvassing board, and allows for appointed watchers on their behalf.

The bill bolsters reporting, requiring that every county have access to live voter turnout data, updated hourly by Supervisors of Elections (SOEs). SOEs will also be required to post, beginning at 7 p.m. on Election Day, the number of vote-by-mail ballots that have been received and the number of vote-by-mail ballots that remain uncounted. This reporting will be updated at least every hour.

Finally, the bill will prohibit private money from administering elections by prohibiting our Election Supervisors from accepting donations or grants to fund any aspect of election administration or operations.



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From the FairTax guys. Here is a photo from our trip to Las Vegas on Project 2224, a project to help new candidates for office learn about the logistics of running for office and the issues. Three of the four candidates who signed the Candidate's FAIRtax Pledge. From left Ron Maiellaro of FAIRtax, Willie Mongteque, candidate for US House in Florida District 10, in the middle is Rubin Young, candidate for US

House in Florida District 23 and to the right of Rubin is Alex Stovall, candidate for US House in Arizona District 7. Bob Paxton is on the right. Not in this photo is Jerrod Sessler, candidate for US House in Washington District 4. Bob Paxton of FAIRtax. This photo was taken on April 24th. Ron and Bob are known as the FAIRtax guys!



Attorney General Moody speaking at Officer Memorial in Ocala Florida. the Marion County Sheriff's Office Fallen

Wearing Is Caring

To raise awareness of the need for social distancing and the importance of wearing face coverings to combat COVID-nineteen, The Henry Schein Cares Foundation and The U-P-S Foundation launched the "Wearing is Caring" campaign.

It funds healthcare programs in

underserved communities, while Henry Schein Incorporated—a solutions company for healthcare professionals—donates masks with messages such as: Let's Face It, Mask Up; Superheroes Wear Masks; Wearing is Caring; and I'm Still Smiling.

Learn more at h-s-cares-foundation--dot-org.



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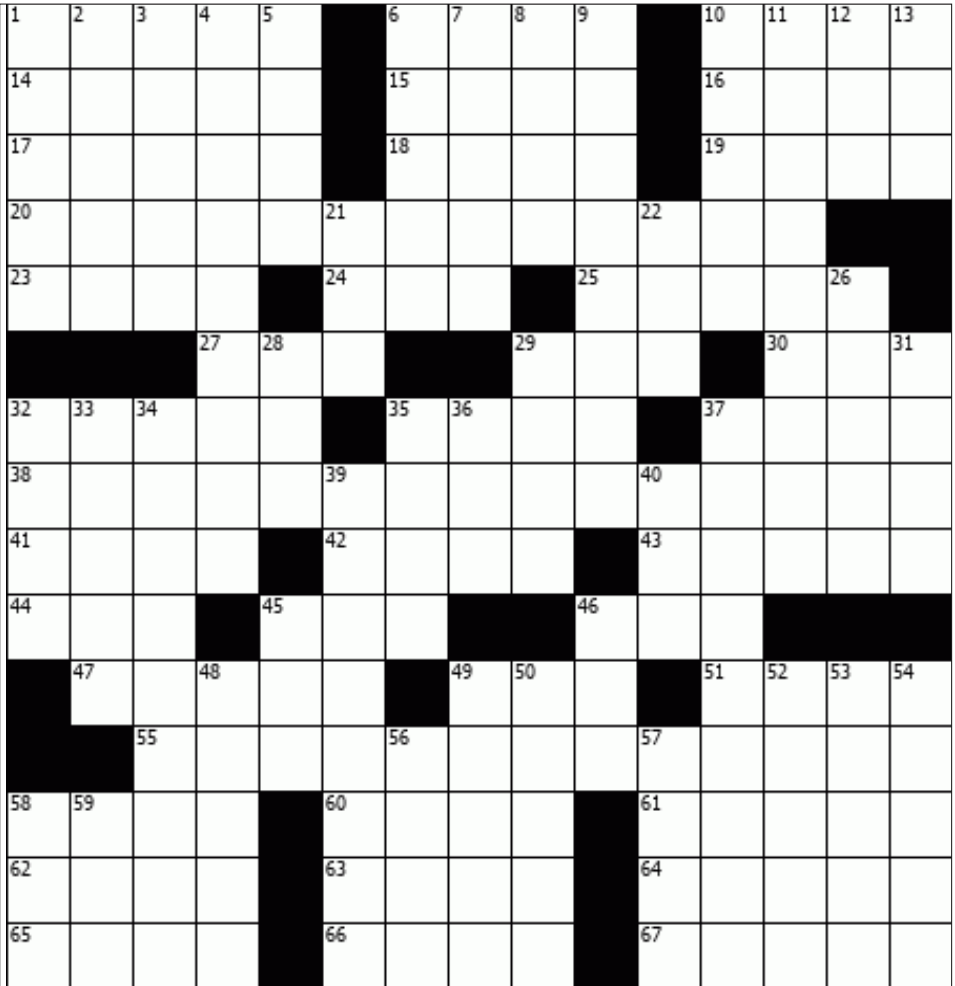
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- Across**

 - Aerosol, e.g.
 - Schiaparelli of fashion
 - Stage support
 - "Common Sense" pamphleteer
 - Leave at the altar
 - "Sanford and Son" producer
 - "My Fair Lady" horse race
 - Time going backward?
 - Place for a pick
 - Start of a quip about brain power
 - a one (zip)
 - Certain aliens in the toy store
 - Rage
 - End of 21-down
 - Org. that deals with class issues?
 - Place for a nail
- Down**

 - Salmon's progeny
 - One-time Turkish title
 - Potato gadget
 - Unidentified
 - Unlikely sighting on Everest
 - Walkman button
 - Washington wheels, often
- Acrylic fiber
 - Hit the buzzer?
 - Latvia's capital
 - Part 2 of the quip
 - London get-togethers
 - On Hobbits, they make a point
 - With sarcasm
 - Granola bit
 - Spider's parlor invitee
 - Features
 - Harry Belafonte's daughter
 - Danson's sitcom portrayal
 - Madison Avenue honor
 - End of the quip
 - Move at a good clip
 - All eyes
 - Well-managed resource?
 - Finals preceder
 - Rank above marquis
 - Earthy pigment
 - Corporate hotshot
 - One with a vision
 - Photos
 - Like some pickings
 - Confirm
 - "The Republic" author
 - Send more supplies to the troops
 - Gear for a galley
 - Expert
 - Southwestern fare, with 27-across
 - RR stop
 - Downhiller's bump
 - One of the Siamese twins
 - Best buddies
 - Effortless
 - Filmmaker Preminger
 - Ostrich relatives of South America
 - Detestable
 - Sojourn
 - Wouk's "The Winds of ---"
 - Test with blots
 - Rooftop landing sites
 - U.S. airline, once
 - To's partner
 - Med. care group
 - Room at the top
 - Tend to the fire
 - Fury
 - Kind of print, briefly
 - Not reacting
 - Brutish beasts
 - Tropical malady
 - Some claim they're terrible
 - Mao follower?
 - Harrison of "My Fair Lady"



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FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody Issues 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today released the 2021

Hurricane Preparedness Guide in advance of this year's Atlantic Hurricane Season that begins June 1. The Florida Attorney General's Hurricane Preparedness Guide is a resource that provides current information about major storm events, how to prepare homes for a hurricane strike and avoiding scams in the aftermath of destruction. Following a [record-breaking season](#) last year, with 30 named storms, Attorney General Moody is encouraging Floridians to make preparations now and to have a plan in place.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Preparing for hurricanes and dealing with the aftermath of a major storm is an unfortunate reality of living in Florida. If you are new to our great state, or need to update your family's plan, the 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide is a great resource of information. The guide includes hurricane safety tips, as well as information about how to avoid being swindled after a storm. The safety of your family, pets and property depends on preparations you make now—before disaster strikes."

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric](#)

[Administration](#) is predicting the 2021 Atlantic Hurricane Season to be active with 13 to 20 named storms developing—with six to 10 of those storms becoming hurricanes. Beginning with the 2021 season, [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#) will use 1991-2020 as the new 30-year period of record, with the average number of storms per season increasing to 14 named storms and seven hurricanes. Last year's record-breaking season saw 30 named storms, 13 of which were hurricanes with six becoming major hurricanes.

The 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide provides Floridians with information on tropical storms and hurricanes, how to prepare for incoming storms, making a household emergency plan and tips for avoiding scams after the storm.

Below are some important hurricane preparedness tips from the guide: Know evacuation routes and shelter locations;

- Stock up on enough food, water and emergency supplies for three to seven days;
- Verify that storm-related products are hurricane-proof or impact-proof before purchasing;
- After the storm, be wary of contractors who solicit door-to-door, quote extremely low prices for repairs, demand large upfront payments with no date to return to do work, offer to perform repairs at a discount with leftover supplies from another job; and

- Research recovery charities before giving. As solicitations increase following a disaster, so do charity scams designed to profit off the goodwill of others.
- To view more tips in the Attorney General's 2021 Hurricane Preparedness Guide, go to <http://myfloridalegal.com>
- Price gouging is one of the most common consumer complaints reported during hurricane season. Florida's price gouging laws are designed to protect consumers from becoming victims before or after a disaster. Throughout a declared state of emergency, it is unlawful to sell essential commodities for an amount that grossly exceeds the average price for that commodity during the 30 days before the declaration.

For more information about price gouging, go to <http://myfloridalegal.com>.

See below for downloadable, printable and shareable brochures and posters with information on price gouging, go to MYFloridaLegal.com:

[Price Gouging Poster 1](#)

[Price Gouging Poster 2](#)

[Scams at a Glance: Price GougingEnglish](#)

[Scams at a Glance: Price GougingSpanish](#)

During a declared state of emergency, the Florida Attorney General's Office activates the state's price gouging hotline to receive reports of excessive price increases. The Attorney General's Rapid Response Team also works with businesses and consumers in real time to stop potentially unlawful price increases to ensure Floridians can afford essential storm-related commodities when needed most. Consumers should plan ahead to prepare for a storm and stay

mindful of essential products and prices.

Along with the start of hurricane season, June 2021 also marks the two-year anniversary of Attorney General Moody launching [the NO SCAM reporting app](#), available for iPhone and Android devices in both English and Spanish. The No Scam app offers a user-friendly alternative for Floridians who suspect price gouging and want to report instances during a declared state of emergency.

To report potential price gouging, use the No Scam app, call 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at MyFloridaLegal.com.



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Today's Weather Is Unpredictable



Today's outdoor power equipment is increasingly easier to use, more efficient and cleaner—and powered in a variety of ways, including battery/electric, hybrids, propane and solar, as well as gasoline and diesel. Even robotic, interconnected and remote-controlled technology has entered the power equipment market.

Today's Weather Is Unpredictable: Keep Your Outdoor Power Equipment Ready

(NAPSI)—Weather today is challenging and the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners that it's important to make sure you have the right outdoor power equipment on hand and to keep equipment in good working order year-round.

A chainsaw or pole pruner can trim limbs ahead of a storm or handle fallen limbs helping to clear debris. A generator will power appliances and keep lights on and cell phones charged when the electricity goes out. A water pump can help with flooding in your home or basement. A utility vehicle can be maneuverable and is smaller than a car, helping transport people and supplies quickly in an emergency.

“We've experienced a lot of problematic weather lately but, thankfully, there is a product and power source for every need and to address every scenario. Being prepared for the unpredictable is easier than ever before,” said Kris Kiser, President & CEO of OPEI, an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars.

OPEI offers the following tips to help home and business owners:

Get ready in advance. Before a disaster or storm strikes is the best time to buy outdoor power equipment. You never know when the electricity might go out or when a storm might arise.

Know your needs. Determine what might

need to be cleaned up or tidied before severe weather arrives. Decide what equipment is needed to keep people and property safe before and after a disaster or power outage.

Do research. Outdoor power equipment has changed a lot from what you might remember from years past. The industry is rapidly innovating with equipment becoming faster, lighter, more efficient, more ergonomic and cleaner. Get their recommendations from dealers and store personnel who are well versed in equipment.

Buy what fits your needs. Each equipment type and power source has different maintenance and care requirements. Equipment is sized for different levels of need, so it's important to buy what works for your unique situation.

Think ahead and purchase accessories. Buy outdoor-rated extension cords for generators and consider getting an approved cover for your generator for rainy weather. Buy and install a carbon monoxide detector if purchasing a generator. Plan now where the generator will be set up (never in a home or garage and always away from your home and any air intake) and determine how to secure it if necessary. Identify safety equipment needed such as chaps, eye protection or hearing protection. Gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment uses E10 or less fuel and most manufacturers recommend adding a fuel stabilizer.

Purchase appropriate fuel and charge batteries just ahead of a storm. Use only an approved fuel container for gasoline and have an extra set of batteries on hand.

Review manufacturer's directions and maintain your equipment. Always follow

all safety and usage recommendations made by the manufacturer. Save a digital copy of the owner's manual on your computer if possible, so it can easily be consulted in the future. Set calendar reminders for regular maintenance.

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