



Pictured Parrish Tanner Ocala Car Audio presenting his services at the OBL breakfast. Parish is the founder and has been in business since 2008. Photos taken by Tammy Portrait Artist Inc.



Jerry Abis Owner Operator of the FunGi's features low pressure washing. In red is Bronson Mosley helping Jerry with some humor in his presentation at the Ocala Business Leaders. On right is Rachel Perez. Photos taken by Tammy Portrait Artist Inc.

OBL Elections Were Held On November 10th Congratulations to our winners!



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Economic Data Demonstrates Continued Economic Growth

Governor DeSantis Announces Florida's October 2021 Economic Data Demonstrates Continued Economic Growth Thanks to Successful Policies That Put Floridians and Businesses First

18 consecutive months of job growth, 12 consecutive months of labor force increases

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida continues to make economic progress with more job growth, labor force increases, and a decline in the unemployment rate. The steady economic growth that Florida is witnessing is thanks to successful policies that put Floridians and businesses first. Florida's economy continued to thrive in October 2021, with 18 consecutive months of private-sector job growth, adding 44,300 jobs over the month and increasing by 5.7% over the year. Florida has also experienced 12 consecutive months of labor force increases with a growth of 29,000 over the month. Florida's labor force growth represents a 5.8% increase over the year, which is significantly higher than the national rate of 0.5%. Florida's unemployment rate, currently at 4.6%, also decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the revised September 2021 rate of 4.8%.

In total, Florida has gained 1,111,000 private sector jobs since April 2020, which represents 89% of jobs lost during the pandemic that have been recovered. Florida continues to see significant increases in

labor force, growing 579,000 over the year as Floridians gain confidence in returning to work. Florida's unemployment rate has lowered over the year, decreasing by 1.2 percentage points. Data in the month of October indicates that there continue to be many job opportunities available for Floridians throughout the state, with more than 518,000 jobs posted online.

"Florida's economy continues to grow faster than the nation because we put the needs of Floridians and businesses first and make smart policy decisions that push back against heavy-handed mandates," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "With 18 consecutive months of job growth and 12 consecutive months of labor force increases, we will continue to make investments that move our economy forward."

"Florida continues to see job growth, increases in labor force, and a decline in unemployment rate thanks to Governor DeSantis' policy decisions to protect Floridians and their jobs," said **Secretary Dane Eagle of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**. "Floridians and businesses remain confident in the state's economy, and as evidence of that confidence, Florida's current participation in the labor force of 10,590,000 is actually larger than Florida's February 2020 labor force of 10,461,000."

Florida Economic Indicators for October 2021 include:

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OXYGEN, THINK ABOUT IT!

By TomL

GLOBAL WARMING / CLIMATE CHANGE / ATMOSPHERIC INTERRUPTIONS and finally stupidity?

A professor emeritus of earth sciences at the University of Melbourne, Professor Ian Plimer. Plimer says the volcanic eruption in Iceland for four days has canceled all the efforts you have made in the United States in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet.

Remember about this carbon emissions that we are trying to suppress - it is the vital chemical component that our planet requires to live and grow and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life.

The Green Revolution has not dug deep enough to realize that. Carbon emissions is necessary to complete the cycle to form oxygen. I am no scientist but it makes sense that we are messing with the critical balance. Some say our emissions is destroying our outer atmosphere. We did

not put this earth here! We did not design it! We can study it. In my opinion Global Warming has become to political tool. It is being used to control the people of USA. We USA were not given this portion of the earth, we fought for it because of the dictatorship in other countries. We wrote our own Constitution, a guideline of laws to live by. Some of our leaders have become feeble, greedy, hungry for power, or just don't care. They have lost tract of the average American and their struggles in their journey of life. Success is great, greedy is not.

This new group of politicians (The squad) remind me of Obama. They came out of no where / almost unknown / not educated in the working of mother earth, but they think they can change it, suppress it! Someone needs to explain how it is an important ingredient of making oxygen. As we all know Oxygen is life saving. Let the world of science get to gather more and discuss the problem.



Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The CEP was recently asked by Enterprise Florida to provide a column on why businesses should consider our community. I thought each of you might enjoy reading why businesses should choose our community.

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 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 infra structured, 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 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.

Learn more at OcalaCEP.com.

Preventing Diabetes



Small Steps Can Make A Big Difference

Prediabetes is a serious medical condition that, if untreated, can put you

at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. But the good news is that by making some healthy lifestyle changes, you can manage or even reverse your prediabetes and lower your chances of it developing into type 2 diabetes.

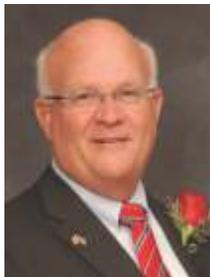
Prediabetes affects approximately 88 million U.S. adults and occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is higher than what is considered normal and recommended for you but not high enough to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. Most people with prediabetes are not aware that they have it, and there are usually no symptoms. People with risk factors for prediabetes include people who have overweight or obesity, are 45 years old or older, have a parent or sibling with diabetes, or are from certain racial and ethnic backgrounds.

“It is important for people with risk factors for prediabetes to learn if they have the condition,” says NIDDK Director Dr. Griffin P. Rodgers. “Even small steps to improve your health and manage prediabetes can make a big difference in

Continued page 7

Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
It's a great day to live in the Free State of Florida! As of this writing, we have just concluded the 2021 Special Session to combat the federal government's unconstitutional

vaccine mandates and it is a pleasure to bring you a brief report on all that we accomplished.

In October, Governor Ron DeSantis called for a special session to provide protections for Floridians who have lost their jobs or are having their employment threatened due to vaccine mandates. In response to that call, the Florida Legislature promptly drafted four bills for

consideration. All four have passed through the legislature and were signed by the Governor in Brandon, FL with legislative leaders by his side.

House Bill 1B prohibits private-sector employers from requiring COVID-19 vaccine mandates for their employees unless they provide the following opt-outs. Medical reasons, as determined by a physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or Physician Assistant. Medical reasons include pregnancy or the anticipation of pregnancy. Also, any sincerely held religious beliefs, prior COVID-19 infection as determined by a lab test, periodic testing at no cost to the employee or personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the employer. The Department of Health has been directed to adopt rules to implement these exemptions.

Any business, with less than 100 employees, found in violation of this law, can be fined up to \$10,000 per violation and business with more than 100 employees can be charged \$50,000 per violation. There is a complete prohibition on public educational institutions and government entities from requiring employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment. Violations include a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Additionally, This bill prohibits K-12 public schools from imposing student mask and vaccine mandates and would also prohibit the quarantining of students and teachers unless they become symptomatic or test positive for COVID-19.

Accompanying this legislation, House Bill 3B, protects employee's private religious and medical information when filing a complaint against employers who violate the provisions in House Bill 1B.

House Bill 5B takes the first step toward developing a proposal to withdraw from

OSHA and assert state jurisdiction over occupational safety and health issues. Withdrawing from OSHA would remove the ability for the Biden Administration to continue with its reckless overreach in to state affairs.

Finally, House Bill 7B, removes the authority for the State Health Officer to require vaccinations during a public health emergency. This never-before-used provision contained some very troubling language that would allow the Surgeon General to force vaccinations "by any means necessary". No one person in our state should have that kind of authority. Removing this part of current law will ensure Floridians, now and in the future, have the freedom to make personal health care decisions.

Individual rights and liberties are worth protecting and we are standing with Floridians and their families to protect them from unlawful attempts by the federal government to force one-size-fits-all COVID mandates. Thank you for sending me to Tallahassee to be your voice as we fight to protect faith, family, freedom, opportunity and life itself.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley

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Keep Your Child COVID-19 Safe



Three Ways To Keep Your Child Safe From COVID-19

Children and teens are catching and spreading COVID-19 at an increasingly high rate. Even if your child or teen has not yet contracted COVID-19, they are at risk, especially with the low number of vaccinated residents in Oklahoma.

"In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, older people were most likely to get the virus. Now it is affecting everyone, and children and teens are also at risk of contracting the virus and experiencing long-lasting impacts," said Dr. Dale Bratzler, University Chief COVID Officer and Professor in the OU Hudson College of Public Health. "We need to do everything we can to keep all our kids safe, and the best way to do that is to get more people vaccinated."

Parents and other adults in a child or teen's life can take steps to protect young people and themselves.

Get Your Child Vaccinated When Eligible

The best way to protect your children from COVID-19 and all the potential complications is to get them vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. The COVID-19 vaccine is free, widely available, and highly effective in preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Like most vaccines, some minor side effects may occur, such as a sore arm or slight fatigue, but the symptoms and long-term impact of contracting COVID-19 are much more serious. Ultimately, it is much safer for children and teens to get a COVID-19 vaccine than getting the disease itself.

Practice Prevention

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



The news media are trying to bury the teachers. All teachers are not trying to teach "Critical Race Theory"! Actually I believe that most teacher's are trying to teaching the normal curriculum. Reading Writing and Arithmetic.

There was a time when our Government believed that every person should have a college degree. They left to many students that slower learners behind which did the opposite. Less students were getting college degrees. They even were quoting school and going in the Military service or just getting a job not having a career in mind but just making money. That is why today after spending Billions of dollars propping up the educational system we are coming around to trades school.

If the left insist in Mail-in voting, then gun dealers should be able to sell guns by mail.

The founder of Dubai, Sheikh Rashid, was asked about the future of his country, and he replied, "My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I ride a Mercedes, my son rides a Land Rover, and my grandson is going to ride a Land Rover...but my great-grandson is going to have to ride a camel again."

Why is that, he was asked? And his reply was, "Hard times create strong men, strong men create easy times. Easy times create weak men, weak men create difficult times. Many will not understand it, but you have to raise warriors, not parasites."

Which takes me to the retirement system in our Government.....

- Salary of retired US Presidents.....\$180,000 for life.
- Salary of retired House.....\$174,000 for life
- Salary of retired Senate members.....\$174,000 for life
- Salary of retired Speaker of the House....\$223,500 for life

• Salary of retired Majority Leaders.....\$193,400 for life

• Salary of retired Minority Leaders.....\$193,000 for life

I ask you how many of them do you think deserve that pay check. If I'm not mistaken there is all kinds of perk also.

In the news It seems as though the Pentagon is disagreeing with Biden. They learned from the retreat from Afghanistan. They are not agreeing in the fact that he wants to make the Pentagon agree to wait till we get Nuked before we could respond. Under no circumstance should the Pentagon turn over that power. What about an ally strike to help people who would defend us? Biden is telling us what we want to hear and doing the opposite. It is though he is stalling waiting for something.

"THIRD WORLD COUNTRY"

The term third world country has nothing to do with poverty. It means...after World War two it refers to countries that did not align with either the Western US aligned coalition or the Soviet block, everyone else was third world country.

WARRIORS!

The United States needs to train smart intelligent warriors, who come up with solution and not ponder or spend time on things you can't fix, except when it comes to the federal government. Look at a persons record on coming up with solutions and vote them into office...A Sheik once said we are building warriors not parasites. I wonder how our parasites percentage wise would stack up to working tax payer in percentages?

Biden's open door policy / Biden's inflation / Biden's high energy cost / Biden's Afghanistan pullout disaster / Biden's Vaccine Mandate / Biden's gasoline prices...How and who is going to stop this and fix it.

Check this out...Christine Grady is head of the "HIH Bio Ethics" The company that approves drugs for the FDA. Her husband is Anthony Vaucci.

Slavery...What Presidents never owned

slave?

John Adams / John Quincy Adams / Millard Fillmore / Franklin Pearce / James Buchanan and Abraham Lincoln who was killed while helping free the slaves (He was a Republican)!!!!

COVID Safe

Continued from page 3

If your children are not eligible to be vaccinated, you can still keep them safe from COVID-19 by practicing recommended prevention methods such as physical distancing when possible and continuing to wear a mask, especially in crowds or while indoors. Even people who have been vaccinated should wear a mask in crowds and public indoor places. Most children can safely and effectively wear face masks, so it's important to remind them that it keeps them safe and to set an example by wearing a mask, too.

Encourage Adults In Your Child's Life To Get Vaccinated

Ensuring that those who spend time around your child are vaccinated helps keep an unvaccinated child from getting sick or spreading COVID-19 to other vulnerable people. Talk to the adults in your child's life—grandparents, friends' parents, and teachers—about getting vaccinated to protect themselves and your child.

Children and teens are just as susceptible to COVID-19 as adults, and they can spread the virus to others who are at even greater risk. A growing number of children and teens have been hospitalized with COVID-19. Getting all eligible children and teens vaccinated and following simple prevention measures will protect them, their families, and friends, and get everyone one step closer to getting this pandemic under control.

Learn More

For more information and to find a vaccine, visit www.vaccines.gov.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, December 17th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 22nd

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I have read 4000 non fiction books. While reading the auto biography of Booker T. Washington., something happened that never happened before. It was what I call an I,I, me me book, but I never felt it had anything to do with ego;, When I reached the last 12 pages my eyes began to leak. I was not crying, but I was so overwhelmed by his explanation of his perspective on life.

If everyone saw life from his perspective we would have happy lives on this planet.

Reading does pay off.

D.I.L

Dear Editor:

WHAT"s the catch?

After watching those Advantage Plan commercials for an entire year they now say it is open enrollment season now? What was that entire year of commercials. Who pays for all those commercials? The bills must be staggering.

Decided to take a look for the catch. There has to be one. Joe Montana caught my eye. Why was he involved.? Curiosity got the best of me.

We were known as the greatest generation, but the mantle was taken over by

the BOOMER BOOBS, tattoos and all as the cheating generation. Who else thought of built in obsolescence. A refrigerator that lasted for 40 years with no repairs needed, now could not even be repaired after 3 years, and it cost many multiples more.

WHAT I HAVE SEEN CHILDREN DO TO PARENTS OVER MONEY IS TOO GRUESOME TO RELATE.

So what is the catch? T here is something called maximum out of pocket amount , and it goes up every year. This seems like a likely catch.

Might be more than keeping the regular Medicare .I would make certain I understood that one.

Might find more if you look harder. These generations smell money and they want it.

Oh! for the days of the Greatest generation, we may not have been as smart, but we were kinder.

Even in the retirement community they are pushing us out, do it their way or get out of the way.

Look for the catch! before you accept or sign. Especially when it is too good to be true. Look at the double dealing of facebook etc.

D.I.L.

Festive And Safe
Holiday Season



Four Ways To Have A Festive And Safe
Holiday Season

by the We Can Do This

COVID-19 Public Education Campaign

Entering the second holiday season of the COVID-19 pandemic, West Virginians are eager to reconnect with family and friends and return to treasured holiday traditions. Some simple steps can keep family and friends healthy through their fall and winter celebrations.

“Every family has unique traditions, and they are eager to enjoy time with loved ones this year, especially if they skipped or changed their holiday plans due to COVID-19 in 2020,” said Dr. Michael Edmond, Chief Medical Officer, WVU Medicine. “With a little care and planning, it is possible to enjoy these special holiday traditions while making sure everyone stays healthy.”

As generations gather to celebrate, the No. 1 way to avoid spreading COVID-19, including to grandparents, young children and others who may be vulnerable, is to make sure everyone who is eligible gets

vaccinated against COVID-19. Children ages 5-11 are the most recent group eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.

People can take these additional steps to ensure they safely enjoy family, friends and special connections they may have missed recently, even as people from different households and different parts of the country gather.

Assess travel plans. Consider delaying travel until you're fully vaccinated. Remember, masks that cover your nose and mouth are required for everyone on planes, buses, trains and other public transportation. If you're unvaccinated, plan to get tested one to three days before your trip within the United States and three to five days after you return. Plan to self-quarantine for seven days, even if the test is negative. If you travel by car, be aware that you and your travel companions could be exposed to the virus on stops for gas, food and bathroom breaks. Remember to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distancing at these locations. If traveling internationally, especially to places where vaccination rates are low and COVID-19 is spreading, visit the CDC's website for recommendations on international travel.

Get tested. If you've been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or if

Continued page 7

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



DeSantis Announces Lawsuit

Florida brings legal action against the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Emergency Temporary Standard

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis announced a lawsuit against the Biden Administration's unconstitutional Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) employer vaccine mandate.

"We started with 15 days to slow the spread and now it's get jabbed or lose your job," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We're supposed to be a government of laws, not a government of men. This OSHA rule is 500 pages of a government of bureaucracy, a government that is being run by executive edict, not a government bound by constitutional constraints."

important to stand up for people's individual ability to make decisions for themselves. And the practical result is that this is going to exacerbate a lot of the existing problems that we are seeing with the economy."

"The Biden administration continues to violate our constitution and punish hard working Americans for making their own choices," said Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez. "As I've said before, Governor DeSantis and I will fight these un-American vaccine mandates, including the latest OSHA rule, to prevent tyrannical overreach from encroaching on our freedoms."

"The remarkable ease at which this president will abandon the rule of law and separation of powers is astonishing and devastating to the autonomy of American workers," said Attorney General Ashley Moody. "For this reason, I will take swift legal action to stop this unprecedented overreach by the federal government — to protect Florida and our workers from the unlawful edicts emanating from President Biden and his handlers. The president does not have the power to force health policy through a workplace safety department. That's not what Congress intended when they created OSHA and it's not a lawful use of the U.S. Department of Labor."

Throughout the 490 pages of governmental overreach in the form of the OSHA rule, some of the most atrocious aspects include:

On page 4: OSHA shall issue an ETS "if the agency determines that employees are subject to grave danger from exposure to

substances or agents determined to be toxic or physically harmful or from new hazards, and an ETS is necessary to protect employees from such danger."

If this was such a "grave danger," why did it take 57 days from the announcement by President Biden to publish the rule and why won't it take effect until January 4 — another 60 days?

On page 5: "The ETS protects these workers through the most effective and efficient control available — vaccination — and further protects workers who remain unvaccinated through required regular testing, use of face coverings, and removal of all infected employees from the workplace."

A recent study from Sweden published in The Lancet found that within 200 days, mRNA vaccines had no ability to prevent transmission whatsoever.

On page 15: The agency is not required to support its conclusions "with anything approaching scientific certainty and has the "prerogative to choose between conflicting evidence."

The CDC recently released a review of research studies and its own unpublished data indicating that both infection-induced and vaccine-induced immunity are durable for at least six months. This rule should account for natural immunity.

On page 20: The agency does not believe it appropriate to impose the costs of testing on an employer where an employee has made an individual choice to pursue a less protective option. For the same reasons, OSHA has also determined that it is not appropriate to require employers to pay for face coverings for employees who choose not to be vaccinated.

Employees will have a direct financial penalty for making a medical decision of

which they have every right to be in control.

This rule, if allowed to be implemented, will impact nearly 9,000 employers in Florida and the 4.5 million Floridians they employ who make up 60% of our workforce. Nationally, it will cost \$2.9 billion. This OSHA rule must be deemed unconstitutional and Florida will be leading the way in taking the Biden Administration to court.

Continued from Front Page

- Unemployment rate is 4.6%.
• September 2021 unemployment rate revised to 4.8%, down from 4.9%.
• Florida businesses gained 44,300 private-sector jobs over the month.
• Labor force was up 29,000 over the month, bringing the October 2021 total up to 10,590,000.
• Florida's labor force growth represents a 5.8% increase over the year compared to 0.5% nationally.
• Florida's private-sector employment increased by 424,300, or 5.7%, over the year, higher than the national rate of 4.5%.
• Florida's over the month private-sector job growth rate was 0.6%, higher than the national rate of 0.5%.
• Private-sector industries gaining the most jobs over the month were:
• Leisure and Hospitality with 16,600 new jobs
• Trade, Transportation, and Utilities with 10,400 new jobs
• Education and Health Services with 6,600 new jobs
• Other Services with 4,200 new jobs
• Professional and Business Services with 3,700 new jobs

Floridians in search of work and new job opportunities are encouraged to turn to the

Continued page 8

Advertisement for Ocala4sale.com featuring a woman with a surprised expression holding money. Text includes 'Bee's Knees!', 'I sold it on Ocala4sale.com and you can too!', and 'Ocala 4sale.com Marion County's Internet Marketplace'.

The Courts Are Clear School Districts Must Comply

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – In yet another victory for parents' rights, the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings dismissed a case filed by six school districts who have disregarded the will of parents to make decisions for their children. In a landmark case, the Administrative Law Judge ruled that the Florida Department of Health had the legal authority to issue **Emergency Rule 64DER21-15**, which empowers parents to decide if their children should wear masks at school and ensures healthy students can remain in school.

"There is no strong evidence of health benefits for children as a result of mask mandates in schools. The rights of parents continue to be protected in Florida, as we can see by this tremendous decision," said **State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo**. "Florida will not make decisions out of fear, but rather out of close analysis of the data."

"When you break the law there are consequences," said **Commissioner Richard Corcoran**. "If these districts continue to break the law, we plan to fully hold them accountable."

This ruling follows an opinion issued by the **First District Court of Appeals on October 29**, which stated in part "(School Districts) cannot stand between parents and their lawful right to make decisions on behalf of their children." At this point, the courts have been entirely clear: All school districts must come into compliance with the

law and honor parental rights to make decisions for their children. Today's ruling also follows eight school districts already acknowledging their missteps in breaking Florida law and since implementing full parental opt-outs to come into compliance with the law (Brevard, FSU Lab, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lee, Leon, Sarasota, and Volusia), and an advisory opinion issued by Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody, which stated "it is my opinion that the District must comply with Rule 64DER21-12 and any other applicable authorities unless and until the judiciary declares them invalid."

Administrative Law Judge Bryan Newman found, based on the evidence presented, that "forcing asymptomatic children to wear masks in schools provides no significant barrier to the spread of COVID-19." He criticized the counties' expert witnesses who could not cite any data in Florida to support their universal mask opinions in school settings, while the Department of Health relied on "relevant data" from a case study of Florida schools during the 2020-2021 school year which showed no statistically significant difference between counties with mask mandates and other counties. In addition, the Department's expert, Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, presented "credible" testimony that "a child infected with COVID survives 99.997% of the time." Judge Newman therefore

concluded that the Department's parental opt-out protocols are "safe" for children and "strike the right balance."

Judge Newman also made clear that the Department of Health has lawful authority to govern the control of COVID-19 in school settings throughout the State. In other words, the counties cannot defy state law based on their own preferences for unnecessarily masking children and keeping healthy children at home. The counties are appealing the decision, but such an appeal will be difficult given the judge's factual finding that the parental opt-out protocols "strike the right balance by ensuring that the protocols that govern the control of COVID-19 in schools go no further than what is required to keep children safe and in school."

Diabetes

Continued from page 2

reducing your risk for type 2 diabetes."

Fortunately, making a few healthy lifestyle changes can help people with prediabetes improve their health and help avoid or delay developing type 2 diabetes. Here are some actions you can take:

Ask your doctor for a blood glucose test to find out if you have prediabetes. You should be tested for prediabetes if you have overweight or obesity and have one or more other diabetes risk factors.

If you need to lose weight, try focusing on losing a small amount of weight. The NIDDK's Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) found that people who worked on making lifestyle changes to lose weight, including increased physical activity and healthy eating, could drastically lower their type 2 diabetes risk. The results from the DPP helped the CDC build the National Diabetes Prevention Program (www.cdc.gov/diabetes/prevention), a lifestyle program for people at risk for type 2 diabetes available at locations across the country.

Become more physically active by going on short daily walks. Or try participating in fun hobbies and activities like dancing, playing with your family or friends, or riding a bike.

Try to spend less time sitting and watching television, playing video games or using social media.

Swap sugary snacks for healthy fruits, vegetables or nuts. Or try trading white bread and white rice for high-fiber options, like whole wheat bread and brown rice.

Use a food and drink diary or a smartphone app to keep track of what you eat and drink. It can help you see when you

tend to overeat or consume foods and beverages high in fat or calories.

If you smoke, try to quit. Talk to your doctor or visit <https://smokefree.gov/> for tools and tips on how to become tobacco free.

Try to get at least 7 hours of sleep each night.

Take other steps to stay healthy. For instance, getting the COVID-19 vaccine (and booster shot, if eligible) and flu vaccine is highly important, especially for people who may be more likely to get sick from COVID-19, such as older adults and people who already have diabetes, obesity or heart disease, which are chronic conditions.

You don't have to make all these changes at once. Any step you can take toward being healthier is a step in the right direction. And don't be afraid to ask your doctor or loved ones for support. You're not alone in this journey. Visit the NIDDK website at www.niddk.nih.gov.

Safe Holiday

Continued from page 5

you're not feeling well before the holidays, especially if you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested. Tests are widely available at pharmacies and doctors' offices. Getting tested can provide security, knowing that you won't infect your friends and relatives and everyone can enjoy a stress-free holiday. If in doubt, consider staying home and joining festivities virtually. This will allow you to enjoy the fun while staying safe.

Pay attention to ventilation. When celebrating with your families, try to avoid crowded, poorly ventilated spaces. Consider moving celebrations outdoors, especially if you are planning a large get-together. Have a cookout or roast marshmallows. If you attend family festivities indoors where some guests may not be vaccinated, wear a well-fitting mask over your nose and mouth, remembering that you should never put a mask on a child under the age of 2. The CDC also recommends mask wearing in public indoor settings regardless of vaccination status.

Consider your health status. If you or someone in your household has a health condition or someone is taking medications that weaken the immune system, you should take extra precautions, even if you are fully vaccinated. The CDC recommends that those with weakened immune systems follow similar guidelines for unvaccinated

Continued page 9

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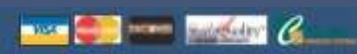
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Answers page 11



Across

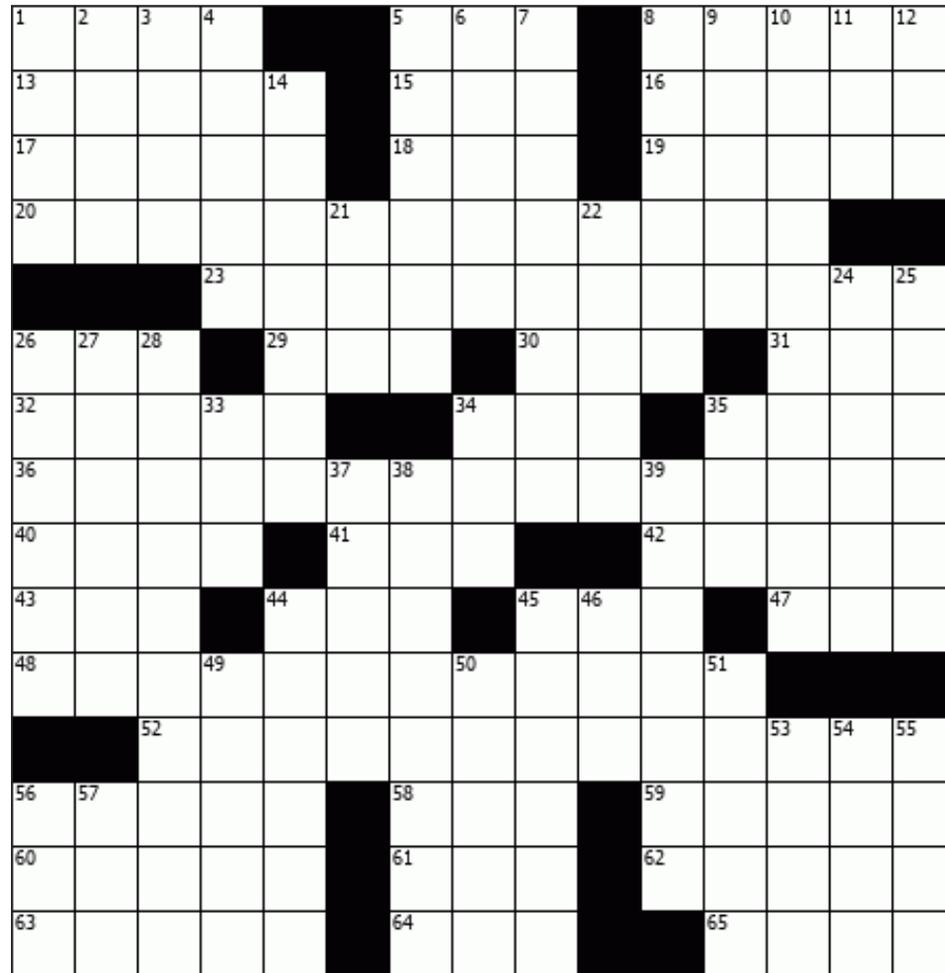
- 1. Cordelia's dad
- 5. Honored mil. award
- 8. Word with point or plane
- 13. Lowest deck
- 15. LAX posting
- 16. When the hike may start?
- 17. Keaton, star of 28-Down
- 18. Goat-legged Greek god
- 19. Violinist's need
- 20. PUSH-UP
- 23. SQUATS
- 26. Russian fighter jet
- 29. Company that bought Time Warner
- 30. Back muscle, to Billy Blanks
- 31. What did ewe say?
- 32. How some popcorn is popped
- 34. Hat or maid leader
- 35. Seed case
- 36. RUN
- 40. "Smooth Operator" chanteuse
- 41. Genealogy word

- 42. Where McLean drove the Chevy
- 43. This may end alcohol
- 44. It's a relief
- 45. The "ugly" to Clint's "good" and Lee's "bad"
- 47. They may be personal
- 48. SIT-UP
- 52. PULL-UP
- 56. Yellowish pigment
- 58. A CPA might recommend one
- 59. Nitrous ____ (laughing gas)
- 60. Extract by force
- 61. "Winter of Artifice" author
- 62. Air Jordans
- 63. Members of the harp family
- 64. Word with real or well
- 65. Telegraphed

Down

- 1. Where Napoleon defeated the Austrians in 1796
- 2. British Idle
- 3. Wings, in Latin
- 4. Pocket Fisherman provider
- 5. Chicago campus
- 6. Philatelist's purchase
- 7. Senorita's scarf
- 8. Obscurer of trees, for some
- 9. Big man Shaq
- 10. Coastal region in NE Spain

- 11. Young Darth Vader's nickname
- 12. "The Ipress File" author Deighton
- 14. Cotton bed sheet fabric
- 21. "The Name of the Rose" author
- 22. Is familiar with Asimov to Zola
- 24. Stuck, gymnastically
- 25. Major point on the Oregon Trail (with "The")
- 26. "The little woman"
- 27. How ransoms are paid
- 28. Sue Miller work (with "The")
- 33. Anger
- 34. 2001 honor for J.K. Rowling
- 35. Bart's grandpa
- 37. "____ Out" (Kevin Kline film)
- 38. Little robin
- 39. Omission of a vowel in pronunciation
- 44. Low bathroom fixtures
- 45. Off the mark, as a throw
- 46. Did not follow
- 49. Better antithesis
- 50. Spine-tingling
- 51. They pick up and drop off
- 53. He never reached his peak?
- 54. Adam's apple location?
- 55. Kind of home or room
- 56. Hooting hunter
- 57. Get all misty



Governor DeSantis Continued from page 6

[CareerSource Florida network](#) for help. Floridians can find guidance to register with [Employ Florida](#) and search listings of available local job openings. Career seekers also can improve employability assistance, perfecting resume writing, interviewing skills, establishing career goals, and pursuing customized career training. These services are provided at no cost to job seekers.

To view the October 2021 employment

data visit: www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/labor-market-information-press-releases/monthly-press-releases.

Visit [Florida Insight](#), for more information on labor market and economic data. Additionally, the Department has provided a [video](#) to assist users in explaining the data provided through [Florida Insight](#) and the new platform.

Steak Tacos



- 1 pound flank or skirt steak, frozen for 30 minutes
- 4 Tbsp (1/4 cup) oil, divided
- 3 Tbsp tamari or reduced sodium soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp freshly squeezed lime juice
- 3 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried Mexican oregano
- 8 taco-sized flour tortillas heated on skillet lightly coated with Mazola® Corn Oil until lightly charred.

Toppings: Cotija cheese, Chopped cilantro, Pickled jalapeno, Lime wedges

INSTRUCTIONS

In large bowl, combine soy sauce, lime juice, 2 tablespoon Mazola® Corn Oil, minced garlic, chili powder, cumin and oregano. Remove steak from freezer and slice thinly across the grain. Place in bowl with marinade. Stir to cover. Marinate 45 minutes to 2 hours. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in large skillet over high heat. Add steak to hot oil. Sear on both sides for about 1 minute. Immediately reduce heat to medium high. Add reserved marinade. Cook, stirring often, until marinade has reduced to half, about 3-4 minutes. Divide steak among warmed tortillas. Top with a sprinkling of chopped cilantro, crumbles of cotija cheese and pickled jalapeño. Serve immediately with lime wedges.

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Safe Holidays

Continued from page 7

people, like such as mask-wearing and social distancing.

The winter holidays are a time to reconnect and celebrate with people you care about. There are many ways to make this year's festivities a time to remember.

Following these safety measures can allow West Virginians to gather together and practice traditions that make the holidays so special. Safe practices are key and the most effective way to ensure a joyful holiday is to get vaccinated.

For more information and to find a vaccine, visit www.vaccines.gov.



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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Love is just a leash away!!

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



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

How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



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



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

Your donations make it possible to provide medical care, food and shelter to animals in need. On behalf of all the animals, thank you for caring.



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FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody Leads Efforts to Stop Robocallers from Misusing Legitimate Phone Numbers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General

Ashley Moody is leading efforts to garner support for the Federal Communications Commission's continued attempts to fight illegal robocalls. Scammers are finding ways to circumvent previously implemented anti-robocall technology to continue bombarding citizens with scam messages.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Working with the FCC, we have been successful in reducing the number of scam robocalls targeting Americans. Unfortunately, in recent months, scammers have found ways to circumvent the technology created to protect our citizens from fraudulent robocall messages. Today, I asked the FCC to continue its efforts to reduce the number of calls by implementing stricter processes on companies that assign and distribute telephone numbers."

Earlier this year, following efforts by Attorney General Moody and other attorneys general, phone companies were required to implement a technology program called STIR/SHAKEN. This technology checks to see if a phone call comes from a legitimate source before the

designated phone begins to ring. Since the FCC required large phone companies to begin using this technology in June, scam robocalls have dropped [nearly 30%](#).

Scammers are now trying to circumvent the STIR/SHAKEN program by purchasing access to legitimate phone numbers to conceal their identities. Providing false information and shielding identities, scammers purchase access to legitimate phone numbers from companies that do not have strong know-your-customer policies. For STIR/SHAKEN to reach its full potential to reduce illegal robocalls, scammers cannot be allowed uninhibited access to legitimate phone numbers.

The FCC proposes to implement a more thorough application, review and monitoring process for phone companies that request direct access to phone numbers and to require these companies verify customers' identities to help keep the numbers from being sold, leased or rented to scammers for illegal robocall purposes. This includes limiting the use of temporary phone numbers for trial customers.

Attorney General Moody is leading a letter of support from attorneys general across the country. A copy of the letter is available on [myfloridalegal.com](#)

In addition to Attorney General Moody, the following 50 attorneys general signed on to the letter: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado,

Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Attorney General Moody Leads Multistate Investigation into Instagram's Impact on Young People

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is leading a nationwide investigation into Meta Platforms, Inc., formerly known as Facebook, for conduct relating to use of its social media platform Instagram by children and young adults. Attorneys General across the country are examining whether the company violated state consumer protection laws and put the public at risk by carelessly promoting the platform to younger users.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "We have serious concerns about how social media is impacting the lives of young people in this country, and as a mother, I want to know how Facebook/Meta is targeting youth and what strategies this Big Tech giant is using to entice children and teens to lengthen engagement on its platforms. I am proud to lead these efforts with our partner states to find out if Meta

violated any consumer protection laws and put our children at risk."

The investigation targets, among other things, the techniques used by Meta to increase the frequency and duration of engagement by young users and the resulting harms caused by such extended engagement. Today's announcement follows recent reports revealing that Meta's own internal research shows that using Instagram is associated with increased risks of physical and mental health damages on young people. These harms include depression, eating disorders and suicide.

Attorney General Moody continues to challenge Meta's overreaching goals by leading the action to end [Facebooks monopoly](#), supporting the [cancellation of youth social media platform plans](#) and taking action against Facebook to [fight human trafficking](#).

Attorney General Moody is leading the investigation with a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Tennessee and Vermont.



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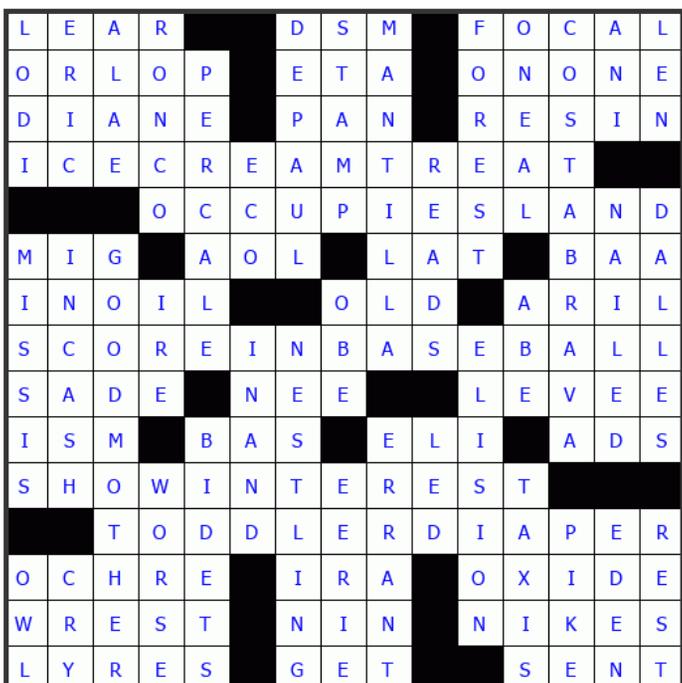
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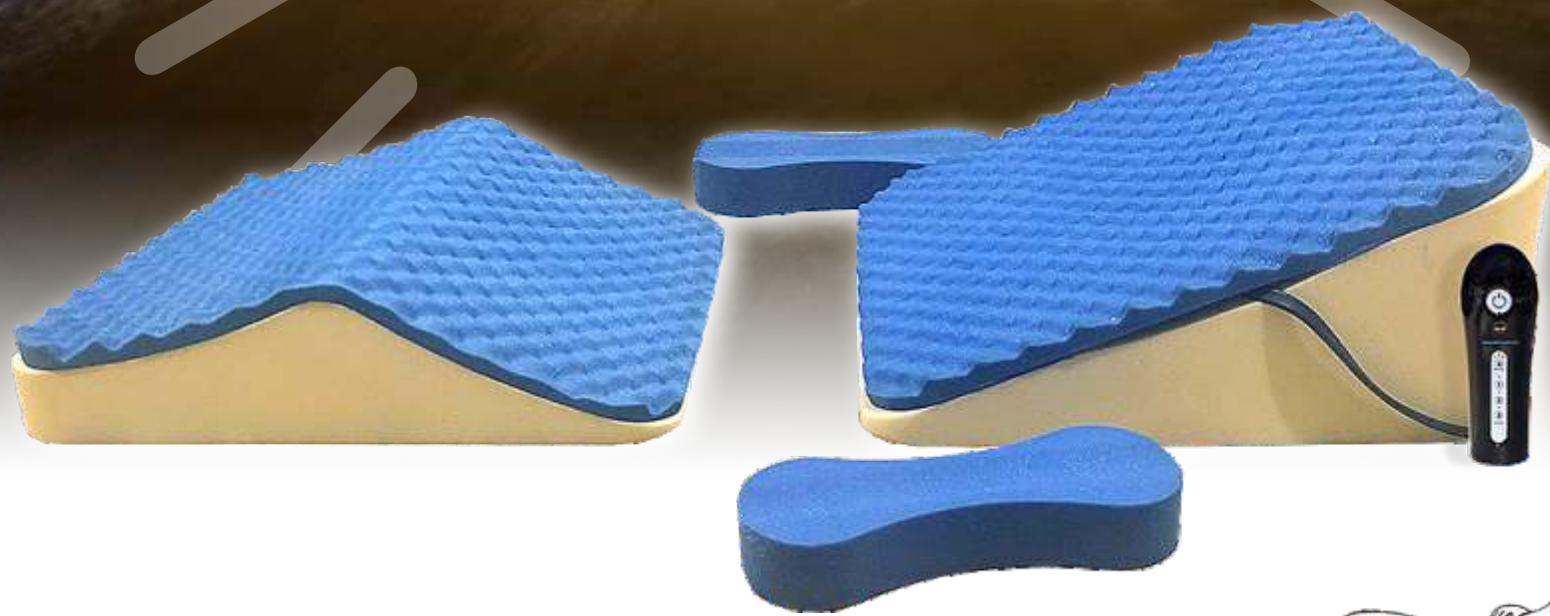
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