

# HOPE And PRIDE Is all they promised them

By TomL

I am going back many years where some people I knew help me understand the process of Immigration. The story starts where a family came to the Promise land, the United States of America!

You could get a job, work hard and live a life out of poverty. I won't put a name on them because some are still alive. An Immigrant got a job on the Rail Road and later married his sweetheart and had five children. The father died in a Rail Road Car accident, where he was knocked off the top of a rail road car, laid in bed over night and passed away.

One of the daughters told the story. She was the second oldest and was not yet a teen. The mother was working any job she could to make money. Taking in washing, altering clothes, ironing clothes, scrubbing floors to feed the children. The daughter telling the story said that "They were never were so poor as they were in America". On the way home from school the children would walk the railroad track to pickup up coal that fell off the Railroad cars. Some of the local people did not like that, why because they were immigrants and poor, so they stopped them every day until they stopped walking the tracks home.

The oldest girl became a teen quit school and went to work to help feed the family, family a better chance at a better life.

Then the second oldest became a teen and she quit school and went to work, So the pattern went on until a couple of the boys came of age and things were not perfect but they were doing better.

As time went on the girl telling the story met a young man and they were married. He was working for the Rail Road as a mechanic. The war broke out and by that time he had built a house for him and his bride. Not big, nothing special but perfect for a simple life. He went to war to fight the Germans he found out his wife was pregnant. He sent every cent home he made for them to live on. His wife banked money being very thrifty. He lived threw the war and came home to his wife and a child he had never seen. He got his job back on the Rail Road and they snuggled in as a family. They were not rich but comfortable. Rich in their lives as a family.

Nothing was given to these people but pride, hope and opportunity.

NOW fast forward to today! What do you think about today's immigrant system?

tloury@att.net



**The Annual Awards Dinner & Board Installation** was held at The Waterfront Inn in Lake Sumter Landing. Chamber members enjoyed an evening of networking, awards, a silent auction, and even a wine toss. The event would not have been possible without the support of our wonderful sponsors. Sponsors of the evening include Visiting Angels, Mia Bella Salon & Spa, United Southern Bank, Belleview Chiropractic Clinic, UF Health

The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation, Elevate Lake, Bill Bryan Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Beyers Funeral Home, Gold in Art Jewelers, VITAS Healthcare, Carried Away Gifts, East Coast Capital, The Waterfront Inn, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Glitterati Hair Studio.

The Chamber is proud to announce our newest Executive Board for 2023 & 2024:

- President: Jeanne Lazo, United Southern Bank

- Vice President: Billy Berg, Bill Bryan Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
- Treasurer: Gloria Ebey, VITAS Healthcare
- Secretary: Cindy Thiede, VITAS Healthcare
- Member at Large: Vicki Kerley, Visiting Angels

See more pictures page 9

## Seniors Connect Programs



### 1. Senior Watch Overview:

If you are living alone or have medical problems and you have no one to check on you daily, you can take advantage of the

security provided by the Senior Watch Program.

#### How it works:

When you join, you will be assigned your own special identification number. Simply call the Senior Watch telephone operators each morning and tell them how you feel.

If the Senior Watch operators do not hear from you, they will attempt to call you. If you fail to answer the telephone, the Senior Watch will contact one of your neighbors or a relative, if possible, to check on you. If contact cannot be made with you in a timely manner, a Deputy Sheriff will be dispatched to your home.

#### How to join:

Call the Lake County Sheriff's Office at 352-343-2101 and provide your name, address, telephone number and a few details about yourself such as your age, medical condition and friends and relatives who may live nearby.

[https://www.lcso.org/bureaus/community\\_engagement/communityprograms/senior\\_watch/index.php](https://www.lcso.org/bureaus/community_engagement/communityprograms/senior_watch/index.php)

### 2. Vial of Life

#### Overview:

The Vial of Life Program is a free program designed for seniors and individuals with a medical condition to provide pertinent

medical information to emergency personnel who respond to and treat home emergencies. The Vial of Life contains much of the medical history needed by the responding emergency personnel, such as existing medical condition, allergies, medication currently being taken, and emergency contact information.

#### How it works:

Vial of Life participants complete a

*Continued page 4*

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A.J. “Tony” Powell

## AS I SEE IT

### What Is INTERNET IMMUNITY?

The US Anti-Terrorism Act, is a federal law that lets Americans recover damages related to “an act of international terrorism”.

An American family claims that YouTube routinely and unlawfully recommends videos by the group 'ISIL (ISIS)' which boasts about the Paris attacks that killed 130 people including their son.

Apparently, for whatever reason, the government protects internet companies like FACEBOOK, GOOGLE, YOUTUBE and all the others, from being sued.

In practice, this means that they are making millions by promoting pornographers, terrorists, law-breaking companies and hostile foreign countries.

But they are 'immune' from the laws which punish 'We the People'.

The examples are too many to list here, but dozens of recent terrorist attacks, here and overseas were planned over the internet – including the notorious invasion of congress on June 6th in Washington DC.

The so-called, 'Communications Decency Act' protects online companies from liability for what they publish.

But, the fact is, that they routinely edit, delete, promote and prohibit content as they see fit.

A recent example is Elon Musk deciding to 'cancel' former President Donald Trump.

One quote claims that their decisions are based on protecting us, their users, from seeing anything which they deem to be “obscene or otherwise objectionable”.

The law (Section 230) means that a company which 'provides or uses an interactive computer service' cannot be held liable for that information.

A plaintiff cannot sue the company for information provided to them by a third party. That means that they are immune from responsibility for damaging you, me and 'all of the above'.

If the law was repealed, then these so-called 'online platforms' would be held legally liable for everything they publish

including content submitted by their users.

Google was sued, for a post disparaging a business.

But the courts decided that although GOOGLE can and does remove, delete or limit posters they do not “edit or substantively change the actual content”.

As I See It, that means that they can trash submissions that they don't support and give prominence and priority to those they do.

What I don't understand is that 'Section 230' seems to say that online companies are not protected against accusations of 'negligence and illegal behavior' like these:-

-Negligently designing a website or service, which caused harm to a user.

**-Materially contributing to illegality of information or harmful nature of content.**

**-Failing to warn users of a known danger on the platform.**

-And federal civil rights, antitrust, Fair Housing Act, privacy laws or intellectual property claims.

Conversely, these companies can hide behind the excuse that “*the content came from a third party*” which means just about everything that they display.

It has been reported that Congress is

talking about changing the law.

Options include:

- Repeal it completely or at least limit it's scope.

- Or impose a few 'obligations' and alter the so-called 'Good Samaritan' provision.

The “21st Century FREE Speech Act”, would repeal Section 230 completely and reclassify GOOGLE and the others as 'common carriers'. This would require them all to give access to anyone without picking and choosing for or against individual users.

This would include, for example, Political views and Religious affiliations.

**-Is there a 'right or wrong' here?**

If we demand that all submitted 'content' is reviewed and edited, then it's the super-billionaires and their cronies who will decide/dictate what we have a right to see.

*Unlimited 'Free Speech' for them!*

*An end to 'Free Speech' for us!*

-But, if we demand that GOOGLE etc have to publish anything and everything that is submitted to them, then the internet will turn into more of a 'cesspool' that it already is.

'til next time. .



## Water Oak Golf Course Ribbon Cutting





Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,  
2023 is off to a quick start in the Florida Senate as we focus on preparing for the Legislative Session which begins March 7<sup>th</sup>. So far, we have completed four weeks of committee meetings

and a special session and we have another three to go. There have been, roughly, 300 bills filed in the House and Senate. In previous years, we have seen as many as 4000 filed bills before the end of Session. So, it is a bit surprising how low this number is, but these last three weeks is when the majority of these bills will reach the "filed" status. When that happens, there will be a lot of information to sift through, but a good thing to remember is that less than ten percent of bills actually pass the legislature and lots of bad (and some good) ideas will die off.

Currently, in addition to serving as President Pro Tempore, your Senator sits on the following eight committees. The policy Committees on Agriculture, Community Affairs, Judiciary, Rules and Children, Families and Elder Affairs. The Appropriations Committees on Health and Human Services, Criminal and Civil Justice, and the full Committee on Appropriations. The full Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee are the largest of the Senate Committees and most, if not all, of bills filed will have to come through one of these two committees. We are very excited to be a part of both of those committees and for the opportunity we have to review, give input, and vote on every piece of legislation that comes through the Florida Senate.

This will be the first time we have served on the Agriculture committee, led by my good friend Senator Jay Collins, and looking forward to accomplishing some great things for our farmers, ranchers and all of those in the Ag community.

The Florida Department of Citrus recently provided an update to our committee on the state of Florida's Citrus Industry and the challenges they are facing. Regarding the overall state of the industry, during Fiscal Year 2020-2021, Florida's citrus industry generated nearly \$7 billion in revenue, provided over 30,000 jobs, and added close to \$3 billion in value to our state's GDP. Florida is also projected to account for approximately 70% of all domestically produced orange juice. However, Hurricanes Ian and Nicole are estimated to have caused between \$385 million and \$635 million in total commercial losses. In addition to these losses, producer operations and facilities have experienced significant infrastructure damage. These challenges, combined with other economic factors, have resulted in a projected total decline of 50% of Florida citrus production compared to 2021-2022 season. Last year, the Legislature appropriated \$3 million to help ensure citrus nurseries have all the necessary resources to grow unique varieties of citrus that are resistant to citrus greening, one of the most serious plant diseases in the world. Citrus greening continues to be one of the largest hurdles that the industry faces.



Thank you to the constituents of Senate District 13 for letting me serve you and work on these unique challenges with you. We look forward to providing more quick

reports from our committees next month. Onward & Upward,  
Senator Dennis Baxley

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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



### Hope and Pride for our Americans

By TomL

When I was a young lad of 14 years old I belonged to the Optimist Club of Dania Beach Florida. We had all kinds of activities going on my dad was a boxing coach, so you know what happened next. He had me in the ring but I did not like it. Time went on and the other boxing coaches son challenged me and I said I was not interested. That went on for a while when finally my dad said, are you afraid of him? I said no but I'm not interested in fighting him without cause. Well it seemed that was not good enough so we fought the next week. My dad said do exactly what I taught you and you will be alright. He had a few pounds on me but when the fight started he started fast a furious but when I landed a couple of good punches he went crazy which is what my dad said he would do. I covered up and got in

three more good punches in and they stopped the fight. That is what I have been doing all my life. Cover up and come back!

To get back to the Optimist Club. That same year we had an oratorical contest. I won a trip to the nationals, to Cuba to compete, Castro was fighting in the hills. The subject of my speech was FREEDOM OUR MOST PRECIOUS HERITAGE! My speech started out with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address begins with the words, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (It also means women) the speech went on mentioning Immigration, Ellis Island and I finished 4th in the competition. An eighteen year old from Tennessee won but the Grand finally was Batista the dictator was in attendance. We met, I shook his hand but they hurried me out because of my political thoughts. They are still doing that today.

I have wanted to give my thoughts on

HOPE & PRIDE. Listen to me please. Negative feed back will sour our lives. Hope is one of the most important things. I would say God / Family / Hope / Pride with everything you do. If you can't be proud of it don't do it!

Our leaders need to think more about pride and less about money and telling us what to do. First they create a crisis, then they allocated our tax dollars to fix it and then the money disappears. If you take a good look at our current government and it is riddled with criminal investigation. The news media reporting negative news and now a criminal has got an attorney to ask for a cease and Desist reporting. The Tax money going to Parenthood kills 350,000 babies every year and receives \$500,000,000 in tax dollars annually.

A man who left 300,000 guns for the Taliban is lecturing us the Americans on gun control.

## Seniors

*Continued from page 1*

medical information form which is placed into a medicine vial. A "Vial of Life" sticker is placed on the vial which is then put in the participant's refrigerator in plain view.

Another "Vial of Life" sticker is placed on the front door to alert emergency personnel that medical information is located inside of the refrigerator. In many cases, this information could prove invaluable to the responders.

### How to apply:

The Vial of Life may be obtained by contacting the Community Engagement Unit of the Lake County Sheriff's Office at (352) 326-8108 or by sending an email to [commservices@lcsso.org](mailto:commservices@lcsso.org).

### Existing members:

Existing program members can print out additional medical information forms.

Find [Medical Information Form](#) and more at

[https://www.lcsso.org/bureaus/community\\_engagement/communityprograms/vialoflife/](https://www.lcsso.org/bureaus/community_engagement/communityprograms/vialoflife/)



## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for April*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**Noon, March 17th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, March 22nd**

## Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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### Quotes:

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## FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Congresswoman Kat Cammack, Senator Marsha Blackburn Introduce Bill To Stop Taxpayer Funding Of Human And Drug Traffickers Awaiting Prosecution & Conviction

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) introduced legislation to ensure human and drug traffickers cannot continue to defraud the American taxpayer while they await prosecution and conviction. The bill, "Stop Taxpayer Funding of Traffickers Act," comes after several visits to the border over the last two years by Congresswoman Cammack, Senator Blackburn, and their colleagues.

While Congresswoman Cammack led the House version of the bill, Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), and Katie Britt (R-AL) co-sponsored the Senate legislation.

"Over the last two years, we've seen the horrific consequences of the Biden Border Crisis, including the devastating toll on our communities nationwide from drug and human trafficking. In Marion County, Florida, our sheriff's department has recovered bricks of fentanyl with stamps from border cartels, alongside pill presses and sophisticated distribution plans. Our first responders gear up each day to save lives from fentanyl overdoses occurring almost daily, putting their own lives at risk," said Representative Cammack. "Those responsible for trafficking drugs and people into our country at our borders and in our waters should not receive federal assistance after violating our laws—not only is it wrong, but it rewards those who have perpetuated this deadly crisis. I'm pleased to join Senator Blackburn on this effort and look forward to growing this legislation's support with my colleagues."

"For two years, President Biden's open border policies have emboldened the cartels and caused human trafficking to grow to a \$13 billion industry, with criminal cartels earning up to \$14 million each day. Last year alone, law enforcement seized over

14,000 pounds of fentanyl at the border, enough to kill over 3.3 billion people. We cannot continue to incentivize this blatant criminal activity. This legislation ensures that hardworking American taxpayers – already crushed by inflation – are not forced to fund the lifestyles of offenders who are making our country more dangerous," said Senator Blackburn.

"As a border Sheriff, I have witnessed the senseless tragedies on our southern border at the evil control of ruthless and violent criminal transnational organizations, i.e. cartels. These cartels exploit their criminal enterprise based on fear, violence and greed. I support and commend [the] efforts to pass legislation for those directly responsible in these types of criminal acts that violate Public Safety - National Security and Humanitarian offenses," said Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County, Arizona and NSA Border Security Chair.

Even after offenders are charged with federal drug and human trafficking offenses, many of them continue to live in government housing and receive other government benefits while they persist in exploiting and trafficking women and children or smuggling drugs across the border.

*The Stop Taxpayer Funding of Traffickers Act:*

- Prohibits anyone charged with drug or human trafficking at our international borders or in our territorial waters from receiving federal government benefits.
- Defines "drug trafficking offense" as any federal offense that includes as an element the distribution of a controlled substance.
- Defines "human trafficking offense" as a range of offenses, including smuggling, transporting, and harboring individuals.
- Defines "federal benefit" to include the issuance of any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of the United States or by appropriated funds of the United States, as well as any retirement, welfare, Social Security, health, disability, veterans, or public housing benefit.
- If the charges are dismissed or the

individual is acquitted, provides for back payment of benefits to any individual deprived of benefits under this section.

This evening, Congresswoman Cammack joins her colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee in McAllen, Texas for a joint field hearing titled "President Biden's Border Crisis is a Public Health Crisis" with the Health and Oversight & Investigations Subcommittees.

Rep. Cammack Announces Ocala's Assistance To Firefighters Grant (AFG) Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) announced Ocala Fire Rescue's (OFR) 'Assistance To Firefighters' Grant (AFG) award from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The department will receive \$381,150 to improve its operations and safety, including using the grant for new protective equipment.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is one of three grant programs administered by DHS and FEMA to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and related hazards.

"I'm so excited for our brave men and women in Ocala to have the equipment necessary to help them do their jobs more safely and effectively," said Congresswoman Cammack. "Our first responders are heroes and it's imperative that we ensure they stay safe while serving our communities."

"Ocala Fire Rescue will use the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase portable Advanced Life Support (ALS) tools that monitor cardiac function, blood pressure, and oxygen levels, among others, and serve as external defibrillators—better known as Lifepak 15s," said OFR Fire Chief Clint Welborn.

"I couldn't be prouder of our firefighters in Ocala. As the wife of a firefighter and paramedic myself, I know how deserving our departments are of this grant and I know they'll continue to demonstrate the very best of our first responder community," said Cammack.

"As a department responding to roughly 25,000 calls for service annually, having the most current life support tools is critical to

providing care that leads patients toward successful recoveries," added Chief Welborn. "Thanks to this award, OFR can replace aging equipment, maintaining the exceptional service our community deserves and expects."

In FY 2020, the AFG program administered nearly \$320 million in competitive grants to eligible applicants whose awards will best address the priorities of the AFG program.

The Office of Congresswoman Kat Cammack offers information on federal grant programs available to communities in Florida's Third Congressional District. To learn more, visit [cammack.house.gov](http://cammack.house.gov) or contact the Gainesville District Office at 352-505-0838.

Rep. Cammack Introduces CAUTION Act, Passes Bill Out Of House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Cammack's bill, H.R. 750—the "Chinese-owned Applications Using The Information of Our Nation Act of 2023" (CAUTION Act)—passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce.

The bill requires any person that sells or distributes a mobile application that the federal government has prohibited for use on government-owned devices must disclose the fact to any individual who downloads, updates, or otherwise uses such an application. "The CAUTION Act is a critical piece of legislation that warns against the dangers of applications with ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). For years, we've known about TikTok and its parent company ByteDance's connections to the Chinese government and their intentional use of Americans' data. Applications that have been banned on U.S. government devices, including TikTok, represent real threats and it is only right that such disclaimers be required for users to know the risks involved," said Congresswoman Cammack.

"ByteDance-owned TikTok has knowingly allowed the ability for the Chinese Communist Party to access American user data. I applaud Mrs. Cammack for her work on the CAUTION Act, which requires a warning label for users

*Continued page 16*

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## Feeling The Burn



### Self-Care for Heartburn

(NewsUSA) - After a year like no other, we are beginning to see glimpses of a return to our pre-pandemic lives. Public health guidance and scientific advances mean we are trickling back into our favorite restaurants, joining together to share meals, and toasting to a year of missing family and friends.

But these celebrations come with their fair share of greasy foods and bubbly beverages. And unfortunately, our favorite indulgences often bring an all-too-familiar side effect: heartburn.

Also known as acid reflux, heartburn can be a miserable experience: the burning sensation in your chest or throat may start after finishing a meal and last for hours afterwards. Other symptoms can include a hot, sour, or acidic fluid feeling in the back of your throat, as well as a lingering cough, sore throat, or hoarse voice. May is Digestive Disease Awareness Month so it's a great time to learn about self-care for heartburn.

If you experience heartburn, you're not alone: more than one in four adults have occasional heartburn with symptoms occurring at least once a week. And for some people, frequent heartburn is a struggle, with symptoms re-occurring even more often.

"Stress and unhealthy eating are two major causes of digestive symptoms including heartburn, and right now, my patients are experiencing both" says Dr. Michael Kreines of the Ohio Gastroenterology & Liver Institute. "With so many treatment options available for different types of heartburn, it can be tricky to know which option is best for you."

The first step to managing your heartburn is to take a look at your lifestyle choices. "It can be tempting to overindulge since we've gone so long without a reason to celebrate. But if you are prone to experiencing heartburn, it's important to avoid common triggers such as fatty and greasy foods and alcohol," says Kreines.

In addition to smart food choices, over-the-counter (OTC) medicines can be a safe and effective way to help alleviate heartburn symptoms. For occasional heartburn symptoms, Dr. Kreines recommends OTC antacids (such as Gaviscon, Mylanta, or Tums) or H2 blockers (such as Pepcid or Tagamet).

"If you suffer from heartburn two or more days per week, you may benefit from OTC proton pump inhibitors, or PPIs," says Kreines. "PPIs -- which include brand names Nexium 24HR, Prevacid 24HR, Prilosec OTC or Zegerid OTC -- are specifically indicated to treat symptoms of frequent heartburn."

The right treatment depends on the frequency and cause of your heartburn symptoms. Always talk to your healthcare provider if you have questions, or if you are struggling with more chronic or severe cases of heartburn. They can properly diagnose heartburn and other conditions.

"Whatever you do, don't ignore your heartburn symptoms," says Dr. Kreines. "In addition to causing significant pain, if left untreated, the stomach acid that causes heartburn can damage the esophagus -- known as GERD."

Your return to normal doesn't have to mean a return to heartburn symptoms. Be aware of your treatment options to keep heartburn at bay. To learn more, visit [www.KnowYourOTCs.org](http://www.KnowYourOTCs.org). Created by the CHPA Educational Foundation, the site serves as a resource to help you navigate the OTC aisle when treating heartburn or other symptoms.

Article Link

<http://feeds.newsusa.com/articles/article/feeling-the-burn-self-care-for-heartburn.aspx>

## The Lifecycle of a Raindrop



### Why it Matters to You

(NAPSI)—It's raining hard. You need to get to an important appointment. You're halfway to your destination when you hit a roadblock. The intersection is flooded, wind gusts have downed electrical wires and there's no end in sight. You have no choice but to return home, where there's no electricity.

Scenarios like this—and much worse—are playing out in communities around the country. Climate change is causing more destructive conditions nationwide, turning every street into a potential flood zone. From earthquakes to severe storms and flooding, Americans are increasingly seeing startling images of cars

disappearing into sinkholes, widespread power outages and destroyed homes and neighborhoods. Everyday stressors and extreme weather are pushing local infrastructure to the brink.

### Where Do the Raindrops Go?

Do you ever wonder where a raindrop goes? Normally, rainfall is absorbed into the ground or it flows into rivers, lakes and oceans to replenish the water cycle. Once land is developed, a stormwater management plan needs to be implemented. This ensures that water that lands on an impermeable surface—pavement, concrete or a roof—is captured, conveyed to where it can be stored and then treated before it is returned to the environment. Without a comprehensive stormwater management system, excess water increases the potential for flooding, which can damage crops and property.

According to Brian King, EVP of Marketing and Sustainability at Advanced Drainage Systems, the lifecycle of a raindrop begins from the moment rain falls from the sky. From that point, it is critical to start planning for how this precious resource is managed, to maximize its positive impacts and minimize its destructive power.

- **Capture**—Stormwater enters basins and filters work to remove sediment and debris.
- **Convey**—Pipes direct water away from parking lots, freeways and fields so areas stay dry and neighborhoods stay safe.
- **Store**—Chambers ensure water flow is managed appropriately, guarding against flooding.
- **Treat**—Water quality products clean water before returning it to lakes and streams.

An optimal stormwater system manages surface water from rainwater events to prevent or reduce flooding and safeguard communities. Yet, many U.S. municipalities aren't equipped to manage ever-increasing stormwater. It has become critical to find solutions that reduce impacts associated with ongoing climate change. Extreme storms and everyday stressors are here to stay and they have extensive consequences for the health and the well-being of our communities.

### Extreme Weather is Wreaking Havoc

As temperatures rise, heavy storms produce excessive rainfall because warmer

*continued page 8*

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- **Learning**- Member only speaker series on business topics
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**Lady Lake AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

**352-753-6029**



Lady Lake Police

## CHIEF ROBERT TEMPESTA.



### Drug & Alcohol Abuse

March 20-26, 2023 is National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week. Addiction can happen to any person regardless of age.

It usually starts when a person is young. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, addiction is the result of changes in the brain that can come from substance abuse. Addictions affect how people think and what they do. There are no specific "type" of person who becomes addicted. People can face addiction regardless of where they are from, or their social status.

Though this may be a difficult topic to discuss with a family member or friend, it is important to have this discussion as it may save a person from problems in the future that can include arrest, loss of employment, or even death. Teens are especially vulnerable due to peer pressure from friends who may experiment with drugs and alcohol. One important sign of addiction is that a person continues to use drugs even though it's harming their life: physical health, performance at school or work, or relationships. They feel like they can't stop using drugs, no matter what happens.

- Some other signs that a person may be abusing drugs or alcohol are:
- Teens are hanging out with different

friends than you are used to seeing him/her with.

- Lower grades in classes due to inattentiveness or missing school. Behavior issues in school resulting in reprimand or suspension.
- A person may no longer care about their appearance or hygiene.
- Altered eating and sleeping habits. This may result in significant weight loss and other health issues.
- Unable to pay bills due to increased spending on substance.
- Loss of employment.
- Trouble with law enforcement resulting in arrest and a record.
- Trouble with family members and friends.

The Lady Lake Police Department is here to help. Feel free to contact our department at 352-751-1560 if you need assistance. You may also contact the Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) helpline at 800-662-HELP (4357).

## The IRS Saver's Credit



### Are You Eligible To Claim The IRS Saver's Credit?

(NAPSI)—The IRS offers an incentive to

lower your tax bill when you save for retirement. Many taxpayers may be eligible to claim the Saver's Credit, but they may not know that it exists. Also referred to as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, the Saver's Credit can reduce federal income taxes for eligible taxpayers who save for retirement through a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

The 23rd Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey finds that fewer than half (49 percent) of workers are aware of the Saver's Credit.

"People who are saving for retirement may be able to claim the Saver's Credit and reduce their federal taxes," says Catherine Collinson, CEO and president of nonprofit Transamerica Institute® and its Center for Retirement Studies. "Some people may be confusing the tax credit with the tax-advantaged treatment of retirement accounts. The idea of a double tax benefit may sound too good to be true, but both are available to eligible savers."

### What Is the Saver's Credit?

The Retirement Savings Contributions Credit is a non-refundable tax credit for contributions an eligible taxpayer makes to a 401(k), 403(b) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, a traditional or Roth IRA, or an ABL (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account. In this context, "non-refundable" means the credit cannot exceed a person's federal income tax for the year. The maximum credit is \$1,000 for single filers or individuals and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly. According to TCRS' analysis of IRS data, the average amount of the Saver's Credit in 2020 was \$186.

### Tips for claiming the Saver's Credit

1. Check Your Eligibility

To be eligible, the maximum Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for single filers is \$34,000 in 2022 and \$36,500 in 2023. For the head of a household, the AGI maximum is \$51,000 in 2022 and \$54,750 in 2023. For those who are married filing jointly, the AGI maximum is \$68,000 in 2022 and \$73,000 in 2023.

You must be 18 years or older by January 1 and cannot be a full-time student or be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return. Consider using the IRS' online tool to help determine if you are eligible for

*Continued page 8*

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## Raindrop

Continued from page 6

air holds more water vapor. When precipitation rates exceed the infiltration capacity of soils and the drainage capacity of the stormwater infrastructure, flooding can cause catastrophic damage.

Warm weather states, such as Florida, California and Texas, have experienced coastal flooding, storm surges, hurricanes and even mudslides. Municipalities often don't have time to recover from one storm before another strikes. Back-to-back atmospheric rivers, which are columns of airborne moisture, make recovery difficult. Consider the following examples:

**Florida:** Florida is seeing an uptick in extreme rainfall events, with tropical storms and deadly hurricanes, resulting in storm surge. Extreme weather is taxing the state's aging stormwater system, which compounds flooding. According to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), extreme rainfall from Hurricane Ian, the second-deadliest storm to strike the continental U.S. this century, produced a 1-in-1,000-year rainfall event in some places.

**California:** Extreme weather means that California swings from periods of drought to periods of excess water in a matter of days. The extended time between rain events and the increasing volume of water puts stress on aging infrastructure. Intense downpours are causing levees to fail and state reservoirs simply don't have capacity. Excess water needed in periods of drought flows back to the oceans. Just one atmospheric river can down power lines, wash away highways and flood homes.

**Texas:** Fueled by warming oceans, hurricanes have become more frequent and powerful in Texas, and rising sea levels make communities increasingly vulnerable to storm surges. Communities endured as much as 60 inches of rain during Hurricane Harvey, with over \$125 billion in costs. In early spring 2022, Texas experienced extreme events, ranging from tornadoes to the loss of tens of thousands of acres from wildfires.

Major storms are considered 1-in-50 or 1-in-100-year storms. However, over five-weeks in the summer of 2022, five 1-in-1,000-year rain events occurred across the country. In many cities, stormwater infrastructure is not equipped to handle this much water. There is a critical need for more resilient systems that create greater capacity above and below the ground.

### Everyday Stressors in the Buried Infrastructure

A resilient infrastructure requires large investments in assets that are designed to operate over the long term. The \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted in 2021 funds a significant public investment in U.S. transportation networks. While much of the focus for the funds is on visible structures, the performance of roads and highways depends on a healthy infrastructure beneath the ground. This "buried" infrastructure includes buried drainage systems, including culverts, storm drains and pipe.

However, underground structures are often compromised by recurring stressors, such as corrosion, abrasion, load fluctuations, settlement, weather cycles and fluctuating groundwater levels. You see the results of these stressors in the form of potholes, erosion and even sinkholes.

Everyday emergency repairs are occurring with greater frequency. Leaking pipe joints, malfunctioning culvert pipes and other buried drainage structures can be made more durable with sustainable and resilient products. A more resilient infrastructure is better prepared to manage the increasingly unpredictable time between storm events and volume of rainfall, and effectively capture, convey, store and treat stormwater.

The next time it rains or storms, you may think differently about what's going on below the surface, allowing you to go about your everyday life. The lifecycle of a raindrop is significant to us all.

Advanced Drainage Systems is a leading manufacturer of innovative stormwater products and services that deliver solutions for the most persistent and challenging water management problems. To learn more, visit [www.adspipe.com](http://www.adspipe.com).

## IRS Saver's

Continued from page 7  
the Saver's Credit.

### 2. Save for Retirement

To claim the Saver's Credit on your 2022 tax return, you must have contributed to a 401(k), a 403(b), or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, or an ABL account during 2022. Contributions to traditional or Roth IRAs are also eligible, and you have until April 18, 2023 to make an IRA contribution for tax year 2022. Rollover contributions are not eligible for the credit.

### 3. File Your Tax Return and Claim the Saver's Credit

Let the IRS help you file your federal taxes with its Free File program. The program's eight partners offer online tax preparation tools, free, to taxpayers with an AGI of \$73,000 or less. More at

[www.irs.gov/FreeFile](http://www.irs.gov/FreeFile).

When using an online tax preparation tool, be sure to answer questions about the Saver's Credit, also referred to by the IRS as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, and Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions.

If you prepare your tax return manually, complete Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, to determine your exact credit rate and amount. Then transfer the amount to line 4 on Schedule 3, which is used with Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-NR.

If you use a professional tax preparer, be sure to ask about the Saver's Credit.

"Saving consistently over time is fundamental to achieving a financially secure retirement," says Collinson. "Another way to help boost your savings is to directly deposit your tax refund into an IRA. Saving more now could help you reap more later."

Remember, this important tax credit may help reduce what you owe in federal taxes or increase your refund. Be sure to check your eligibility. Help spread the word about the Saver's Credit by telling family, friends, and colleagues.

For more details and resources on the Saver's Credit in English and Spanish, visit Transamerica Institute at

[www.transamericainstitute.org/SaversCredit](http://www.transamericainstitute.org/SaversCredit) or the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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# Lady Lake Chamber Recognition Awards

Pictured is Leslie Dicesare presenting some of the people being awarded. The event was dress your best. The members went all out. Congratulations to you all.



Outgoing President Award:  
Vicki Kerley, Visiting Angels with  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare



Executive Director Leslie Dicesare  
presenting a gift to the MC of the event  
Dan Willcox, Certified Bob Ross Instructor.



Ambassador of the Year Winner:  
Bob Gersh, East Coast Capital with  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare



Volunteer of the Year  
Kathy Mariucci with  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare



Community Outreach Award Winner:  
Laurie Blum, OGB Lions Club with  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare



Leadership Award Winner:  
Jeanne Lazo, United Southern Bank with  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare



President Jeanne Lazo presenting  
Executive Director Leslie DiCesare &  
Director of Member Services Janet Fraley with a gift





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- Lady Lake Chamber  
Downtown  
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- Recreation Plantation  
466 Lady Lake



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## DONATIONS NEEDED!

Lady Lake Animal Control is working hard to keep local animals safe. At this time they are helping a large number of cats & kittens and are in desperate need of donations of the following items:

- Fancy Feast Kitten Food (Chicken)
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Lady Lake Area Chamber  
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## FROM THE DESK OF GOVERNOR DESANTIS



### Governor DeSantis Signs Bill to Empower Student Athletes and Support Professional Development

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — Governor Ron DeSantis was joined by student-athletes from Florida State University and the University of Florida to sign House Bill (HB) 7-B, revising Florida's laws relating to Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). HB 7-B removes barriers for NIL while expanding financial literacy, life skills and entrepreneurship workshop requirements for athletes, requiring agents representing student-athletes to protect them from unauthorized use and exploitation of their NIL and specifying that postsecondary educational institutions are not liable for damages as a result of routine actions taken in the course of intercollegiate athletics.

"In 2020, we took a commonsense approach to ensure that student-athletes could control their name, image and likeness and be paid fairly for it," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Now that the NCAA has taken necessary steps to ensure fairness for student-athletes, we can focus on making sure that those athletes are supported and protected under the law."

This bill requires student-athletes to participate in two financial literacy, life skills and entrepreneurship workshops

before graduation. These courses cannot be identical and the second workshop must include more rigorous instruction. These workshops are an important step to ensure that student-athletes are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle the responsibilities that accompany NIL contracts and payments.

The bill also specifies that athlete agents who represent intercollegiate athletes for contracts related to the use of their NIL must protect the student from unauthorized or exploitative use of their NIL or their right to publicity.

Additionally, this legislation specifies that a postsecondary educational institution, including an athletic coach, is not liable for any damages to an intercollegiate athlete's ability to earn compensation for use of their NIL as a result of decisions that are routinely taken in the course of intercollegiate athletics.

The bill repeals provisions previously signed into law in 2020.

### **Governor Ron DeSantis Introduces Groundbreaking Legislation to Protect the Digital Rights and Privacy of All Floridians**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his proposal to protect Floridians' digital rights and privacy from Big Tech companies by creating a Digital Bill of Rights that focuses on protecting Floridians' privacy, protecting minors from online harms, and eliminating unfair censorship. The proposal also bans

the use of TikTok and other social media platforms with ties to China from all state government devices, and through internet services at colleges, universities, and public schools, and prohibits state and local government employees from coordinating with Big Tech companies to censor protected speech. This proposal is for the 2023 Florida Legislative Session that begins in March.

"Our Digital Bill of Rights will ensure Floridians are protected from the overreach and surveillance we have seen from Big Tech companies," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Today's proposal builds on our efforts to stop Big Tech censorship and combat the malign influence of China through the removal of nefarious platforms like TikTok from any state supported activity."

"Big Tech has gone unchecked for too long and has been reckless with our data, causing major concerns about privacy and potentially jeopardizing sensitive state information," said **Attorney General Ashley Moody**. "I'm proud to stand with Governor DeSantis today to give Silicon Valley a reboot and announce an audacious plan to protect Floridians and keep our children safe online."

"The Governor's proposed Digital Bill of Rights is an important initiative that impacts so many citizens," said **Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass**. "This tremendous tool will empower Floridians to fight back against fraud online, to ensure that the information they receive is really what it seems, and to protect their children from malicious actors."

Governor DeSantis has also directed the Department of Management Services

(DMS) to issue a [formal recommendation](#) to state agencies to implement all necessary safeguards to block access to applications and software tied to China, including TikTok, WeChat, and QQ, from all state devices. DMS will also prevent network connections to servers associated with foreign countries of concern.

These executive actions and legislative proposals build upon [legislation signed by Governor DeSantis in 2021](#) that required social media companies to be transparent about their content moderation practices, allowed the Attorney General of Florida to bring action against technology companies that violate the law under Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and prohibited the de-platforming of Floridian political candidates. The Governor also [took action in September](#) to prohibit government entities from procuring technology products and services from companies owned by, controlled by, or domiciled in foreign countries of concern, including China.

### **Florida Breaks Record for Highest Visitation in State History**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida had record visitation in 2022. VISIT FLORIDA estimates that Florida welcomed 137.6 million visitors in 2022, an increase of five percent over 2019 and 12.9 percent over 2021. Florida welcomed 33.2 million travelers between October and December 2022, marking a six percent increase from Q4 2021, and the sixth consecutive quarter of overall visitation surpassing pre-

*Continued page 16*

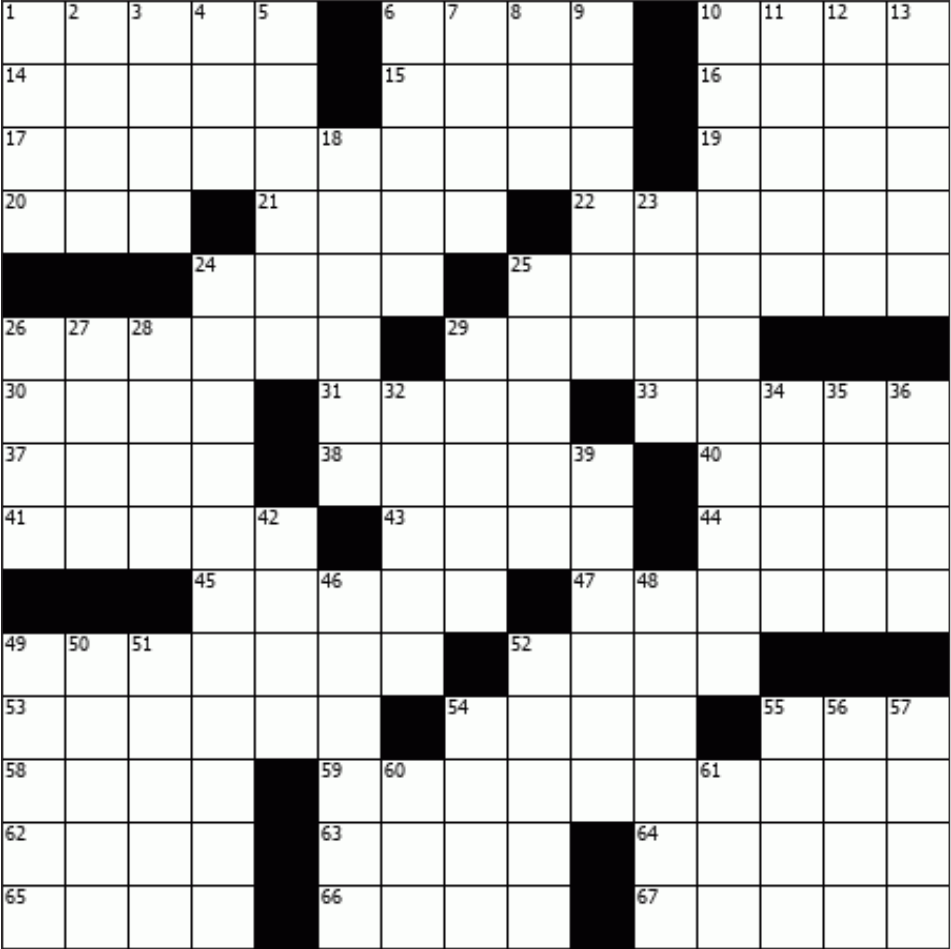




- Across

  - J.K. Rowling's kid
  - Waikiki location
  - Dorothy or Lillian of filmdom
  - Open-mouthed
  - Applaud
  - Part of SRO
  - Grades 7 thru 9, often
  - Faux pas
  - Word with set or stream
  - Marketplace
  - Wipe out
  - Runner's rhythm
  - Let it go
  - Royal perch
  - Apple drink
  - Word with forest or barrel
  - Utopia Plains setting
  - Crossed through
  - Treaty signer
  - Nice school
  - Popeye's prop
  - Served as gondolier
- Down

  - Muslim pilgrimage
  - Malaria symptom
  - Go on-and-on
  - School in Troy, N.Y.
  - Naval petty officer
  - Earthy pigment (Var.)
  - Got off one's high horse?
  - Hardly a beauty
  - Sustained
- Places for tacks
  - Pierce portrayer
  - Copy cats?
  - Position locator, on a PC screen
  - Business office item
  - Hit on the head
  - Type of acid
  - Wine bottle stopper
  - "SNL" network
  - "Hurlyburly" playwright
  - Dojo student's pride
  - Historic times
  - Major musical work
  - Tile style
  - Word after the last word of 17-, 59-Across, and 10-, 24-Down
  - Shout at an open call
  - Fishing net
  - 2001 Robert Altman film
  - Acquired-by-marriage relative
  - Piece of cake
  - Promoted heavily
  - Flower cluster
  - Show some muscle
  - 19th-century mail delivery service
  - Seat separator
  - Sting
  - Seraphic headdress
  - Very small brook
  - \_\_\_\_ de Guerre (French military medal)
  - One placed in a cast
  - Maintains the machinery, in a way
  - High hairstyle
  - Dotted line directive
  - Do an usher's work
  - Sub manufacturer?
  - Think, Dogpatch-style
  - Like some promises
  - Wood connector, often
  - Royal headwear
  - Held off
  - Run without power
  - Critical point
  - St. Petersburg waterway
  - Squandered
  - Keyboard key letters
  - Zoo denizen
  - Shot spot



Race And Religion

**A Perspective On Race And Religion**

(NAPSI)—Do you contribute to racial unity or disunity? That's the focus of a new book, which offers a surprising perspective on race relations in America today, and offers suggestions to improve racial conditions.

One Man's Story

Young white man experiences beatings received from black men in his community. The trauma associated with the beatings had the potential to destroy any favorable constructs of Black people in his life. But the author, Gene Heil, now an ordained minister, refused to allow racial hatred to control him.

Instead, inspired by God, he gained a different perspective of racial disunity, which, according to Heil, is rooted in understanding the impact the dominant white culture has had on the Black culture through generations of cultural abuse and

systemic racism. God taught him to forgive his oppressors, and led him to blend into the black community to gain insight, and to prepare him to become an advocate for racial healing.

Race and Religion

"Instead of allowing me to distance myself from Blacks because of the abuse I encountered, God put me smack in the epicenter of the Black culture—the church," says Heil. "There is nothing more powerful in the Black community than the church." Heil's perspective on race relations changed during this encounter, and he experienced the dynamism of love and forgiveness. He believes racial healing takes place through gaining cultural insight, applying love, and forgiveness. In doing so, society becomes more inclusive, collective and everyone can live harmoniously together.

The Road to Racial Healing

Heil's book, A Perspective on Race and

*Continued page 14*

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## FROM THE DESK OF

## ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



**The Chinese Spy Balloon is Gone, Threats to Sensitive Information Continue and Parents Should Dig in on TikTok**  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Following the days-long

sojourn of a Chinese spy balloon floating across the United States, Attorney General Ashley Moody is cautioning parents about the threat of data collection by China-owned social media app TikTok. The Florida Attorney General's Office is actively and diligently investigating the company over its harmful effects on children, engagement techniques and data collection. Attorney General Moody encourages parents to safeguard their children's personal data. Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "The Chinese spy balloon that traveled U.S. airspace this week is a reminder of the importance of protecting personal information. As a mom, an American and Florida's Attorney General, I have major concerns about how TikTok may be influencing children and exploiting user data. As my attorneys—along with federal officials—continue to investigate TikTok, I recommend parents consider deleting the app from their children's devices to protect the security of their personal information."

Many [U.S. universities are banning the use of TikTok](#) on campus, and last month, [the University of Florida sent a letter to its faculty, staff and students](#), recommending the deletion of TikTok from all mobile devices—stating that according to prominent experts, use of TikTok raises national security concerns

due to the possibility of foreign governments using the app to collect and access U.S. user data.

In May 2020, [Attorney General Moody began seeking information](#) about how TikTok ensures the privacy and security of children who use the social media platform, noting concern regarding the circumvention of age verification tools and the exposure of children to inappropriate content on the platform.

Then, in March 2022, Attorney General Moody along with 42 other attorneys general, [sent a letter to TikTok and Snapchat](#) urging that parents be given the ability to monitor a child's social media usage to guard against online threats through parental controls. In December 2022, Attorney General Moody and 14 additional attorneys general [demanded that both Apple and Google take immediate action](#) to correct the TikTok application store age ratings from 'T' for 'Teen' to 'M' for 'Mature' in the Google Play App Store and from '12+' to '17+' in the Apple App Store.

#### Attorney General Moody Recognizes Top Senior Sleuth Volunteers with 2021-2022 Senior Sleuth Awards

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is recognizing the 2021-2022 top five Seniors vs. Crime volunteers and the Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year for efforts in assisting older consumers in Florida. SvC volunteers, known as Senior Sleuths, work to help older Floridians resolve consumer issues. At a ceremony today in the Villages, Attorney General Moody honored the top five volunteers who earned the title Super Senior Sleuth. During the ceremony, Attorney General Moody also named the 2021-2022

Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Protecting Florida seniors is a mission close to my heart, and I am proud to recognize these five outstanding Floridians who help us fulfill this important undertaking. These Super Senior Sleuths volunteered thousands of hours advocating for older consumers. These Sleuths, and all those who volunteer with Seniors vs. Crime, are helping us build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

This year's Super Senior Sleuths are:

- Joanne Tramonte, SvC Region 1: Coral Springs office;
- Richard Fearnow, SvC Region 2: Lakeland office;
- Kathy Romanac, SvC Region 3: Flagler office;
- Sandy Belinsky, SvC Region 4: Ocala office; and
- Lori Holcomb, SvC Region 5: Tallahassee office.

The 2021-2022 Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year is Richard Fearnow. Fearnow has served nearly 21 years in SvC, becoming the go-to person to contact in Polk County for senior-related disputes and complaints. In addition to working cases for older Floridians in the area, Fearnow conducts trainings for new volunteers. Fearnow also leads the region's SvC office in providing multiple outreach presentations showcasing the resources available to consumers through the program. Through decades of public service, it is estimated that Fearnow has provided more than 13,000 hours of volunteer service to the community, working nearly 1,000 cases.

The most recent SvC annual report shows that volunteers directly assisted nearly 8,000 consumers, providing more than 25,000 hours of free services. Volunteers helped recover more than \$1.2 million for older Floridians in 2022

#### Attorney General Moody Demands President Biden Declare Mexican Drug Cartels Terrorist Organizations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today demanded President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations under federal law. The president's unlawful immigration policies embolden the cartels who are bringing in vast amounts of deadly fentanyl, as well as violence, into the country—putting American lives at risk. Declaring the cartels FTOs gives state and federal agencies the authority to freeze assets, deny entry to cartel members and pursue stricter punishments.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "It's evident that the Mexican drug cartels are terrorist organizations—they are trafficking deadly fentanyl directly across the border, and it is killing tens of thousands of Americans every year. They are also fueling extreme violence at the southwest border and beyond. Sadly, the Biden administration has only emboldened the cartels to commit even more crimes on both sides of the border—through his unlawful immigration policies. So, today, I am demanding that Biden better

equip the federal government to fight back by declaring the drug cartels foreign terrorist organizations." Cartel violence is escalating in both countries. The groups are assassinating rivals, killing Americans at the border and engaging in an armed insurgency against the Mexican government. Last month, [a cartel-style execution](#) occurred in California that reportedly involved a Mexican drug cartel.

In a letter sent today, Attorney General Moody and 20 other state attorneys general explain that the Mexican drug cartels are more than just a drug-trafficking operation.

The letter states: "The Mexican drug cartels threaten our national security beyond the sale of these deadly drugs. Over the past decade, Mexican drug cartels have developed well-organized armed forces to protect their reprehensible trade from rivals and from the Mexican government. The existence of such forces just across our southwestern land border, and the Mexican government's inability to control them, pose a threat to our national security far greater than a typical drug-trafficking enterprise. That threat is made greater still by the known links between the Mexican drug cartels and Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) like Hezbollah who already intend to do us harm. Our national security requires the federal government to disrupt this collaboration between cartels and terrorist groups."

Cartels like the Sinaloa cartel and Cartel Jalisco New Generation import and use raw materials from China to produce deadly fentanyl at a low cost, and traffic the newly-created poison across the southwest border and into our communities. Since February 2021, more than [28,000 pounds of fentanyl](#) have been apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Some of Attorney General Moody's many actions to combat the Biden administration's unlawful public-safety immigration policies resulting in chaos along the border include:

- Urging President Biden to [classify fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction](#), and later [leading a bipartisan group of attorneys general](#) in the effort;

- Taking the Biden administration to court to force the president to follow U.S. immigration law that includes a [deposition from U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz](#), who revealed Biden's policies are forcing USBP to release thousands of migrants—likely inadmissible—into the interior;

- Calling for the president to [appoint the Director for the Office of the National Drug Control Policy position to a Cabinet-level post](#);

- [Filing a brief in the Supreme Court of the United States](#)

- arguing that an executive-branch policy allowing foreign criminals to remain in the U.S. violates federal law; and

- Writing a [letter to Biden ahead of a meeting with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador](#) to bring up the seriousness of the fentanyl crisis and demand accountability from Mexico for the drug entering the United States.

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## Race/Religion

*Continued from page 12*

Religion: A Pathway to Healing, provides a road map to bring about racial unity. The book sheds light on the controversial issue concerning the silence of the church on racism and opens a thought-provoking perspective designed to open discussion of the topic within communities. Heil challenges the reader to review their individual perspective and ask if they are on the side of unity or division. "There is no middle road," according to Heil. "As a country, America must decide how all people want to live amongst each other."

J. Botha, a book reviewer, wrote, "the book really made me question things, like am I really innocent when it comes to racism. It opened my eyes and made me question who we are as a society."

The book discusses systemic racism, the historical role of the church in maintaining the racial divide, and current racial problems. He pleads for national healing, and paints a clear picture of what the country can do to eliminate the racial divide. Heil states, "We are in serious racial division in America. My experience will teach people to love and not hate those who have wronged you. It also spotlights the terrible systemic racism that oppresses Black people. Joining a Black church helped me to heal, and has given me a perspective that most whites will never see while living in privilege."

What This Book Can Mean For You?

This book will help identify bias that is often hidden, and it challenges the reader to self inspect. He constantly stirs the reader, asking if they want to be part of the solution or part of the problem. Heil encourages an honest introspection because it is the only

way to bring about lasting racial change. He warns unless America addresses the racial divide, we will undermine the strength of the country. According to Heil, people can't move forward in life until they acknowledge their problems, and then be willing to face them. The dismantling of racism is long overdue. He provides tips for national healing and opens doors for conversation.

A Perspective on Race and Religion: A Pathway to Healing can help bring positive change within your life as you accept the challenge of identifying your racial bias. According to Heil, people may rarely want to talk about such a detrimental topic, but the transparency in his book can inspire national healing and genuine change.

## Stay Safe



### Stay Safe As You Get Back Outside

(NAPSI)—Spring is coming, and as we get out our lawn mowers and other outdoor power equipment from storage to work in our yards, businesses and other green spaces, it's important to put safe practices in place.

"Think safety first," says Kris Kiser,

President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. "We're all eager to get back outside in the spring weather but I can't stress enough to read your owner's manuals before starting up any equipment—especially your lawn mower."

OPEI offers these tips to get your outdoor power equipment ready, especially mowers:

**Know not all lawn mowers are the same.** Whether your mower is a garden tractor, zero-turn mower or other, it has a unique design, requirements, weight classification, and other differences that impact how to use it safely. The newest machines have the latest safety standards.

**Know your specific machine.** Many mowers may look similar but the technology is ever evolving, with evolving safety systems. They vary in design, power supply, performance, operating parameters, and more. Your manufacturer-supplied owner's manual will guide you in these differences. Read your owner's manual.

**When using mowers on slopes follow the manufacturer's guidance to the letter.**

**Do not disable or alter** manufacturer-installed safety equipment.

**Walk your yard before mowing.** Slopes, wet grass and weather may impact the equipment's performance, as well as safe handling procedures. Pick up sticks and limbs that may have fallen to the ground over the winter and any loose objects that could be hit by a mower. Inspect trees for damaged limbs that may get in your way when mowing.

**Look over equipment before use.** Check

the air filter, oil level and gasoline tank. Watch for loose belts and missing or damaged parts. Replace any parts needed or take your equipment to a qualified service representative. Check to be sure that you have the appropriate, manufacturer-recommended batteries, if needed.

**Protect your power.** Use only E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment if it is not designed for higher ethanol blends. Add a fuel stabilizer if you don't use up all the fuel in the tank right away. Burn off any fuel before storing the mower more than 30 days. Also, for battery-powered equipment, only use battery packs specified by the manufacturer. Follow all charging instructions as outlined in the owner's manual. Be sure to store fuel and batteries safely. Keep batteries away from other metal objects, store them in a climate-controlled area, and never stack batteries.

**Keep children and pets away from machines during operation.**

**Keep your mower clean.** It will run more efficiently and last longer. Always remove dirt, oil or grass before using and storing, and store equipment in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

For information on safe fueling, go to [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com).

For more safety information visit [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org).

**STAY INFORMED**

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Lady Lake County Events

**22ND ANNUAL UMATILLA CITY WIDE YARD SALE**  
**March 4, 2023 @ 8:00 AM**

Umatilla Public Library  
412 HATFIELD DR, Umatilla  
Contact Amy Stultz at 352-669-3284 or email [umatillalibraryfl@gmail.com](mailto:umatillalibraryfl@gmail.com).  
<https://www.umatillalibrary.org/cwys>  
Calling all treasure hunters: bring your wallets to Umatilla for the 22nd Annual City Wide Yard Sale, benefitting the Umatilla Public Library. The entire city is having a giant yard sale. Printed maps will be available for a donation.

**SPRING CONCERT IN THE PARK - PACIFIC RUSH**

**March 4, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**  
Kirk Park,  
17436 Division Street, Montverde  
Contact Sandy Johnson at 407-469-2681 or email [townclerk@mymontverde.com](mailto:townclerk@mymontverde.com).  
<http://mymontverde.com>  
Saturday Market and Concert in the Park. Market runs from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with vendors, food, drink, etc. Band starts at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Pacific Rush is the band tonight!

**GROWING YOUR GARDEN**  
**March 9, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**

Lake County Extension  
1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares  
\$45  
Contact JuWanda Rowell at 352-343-4101 or email [juwanda.rowell@ufl.edu](mailto:juwanda.rowell@ufl.edu).  
<http://lakediscoverygardensprograms.eventbrite.com/>  
Join RH Agent Jamie Daugherty to learn how to grow a vegetable container garden. Receive plants, gloves, a half apron, trowel, cultivator, watering can, & a 17 gallon container. limit 22.  
Register at  
<http://lakediscoverygardensprograms.eventbrite.com>

**BIOBLITZ FOR ARTHROPODS**  
**March 9, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**

Lake May Reserve  
36300 County Road 44A, Eustis  
Contact Linda Richardson at 352-267-2235 or email  
[linda.richardson@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:linda.richardson@lakecountyfl.gov).  
<http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks>  
Perfect for homeschool adventures! Join staff on this hunt for diversity as we try to add to the arthropod species list for the Reserve.

**THE RIGHTEOUS BROTHERS**  
**March 10, 2023 @ 7:30 PM**

Clermont Performing Arts Center  
3700 S Highway 27, Clermont  
\$59.95 - \$98.53  
Contact Box Office at 352-394-4800 or email [adeatrlick@clermontfl.org](mailto:adeatrlick@clermontfl.org).  
<https://clermontperformingarts.com/the-righteous-brothers/>  
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame duo, The Righteous Brothers, topped the charts for four decades and now, Bill Medley joins forces with one of the most versatile vocalists in America, Bucky Heard, to bring the group back to the stage. Following years of sold-out shows on the strip in Las Vegas, Bill & Bucky have hit the road to bring their unique musical magic to concert stages across the country and on March 10, the tour

makes a one-night-only stop at the Clermont Performing Arts Center. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on March 10, 2023, for this one-of-a-kind concert experience that features a string of The Righteous Brothers' biggest hits, including "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' (the most played song in radio history) "Soul & Inspiration," "Unchained Melody," "Ebb Tide," "Just Once in My Life," "Rock and Roll Heaven," Medley's Grammy-winning Dirty Dancing theme, and more!

**LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE: CHRONIC DISEASE AND PAIN MANAGEMENT**  
**March 10, 2023 @ 11:00 AM**

Marianne Beck Memorial Library  
112 West Central Avenue, Howey-in-the-Hills  
Contact Lori Johnson at 352-343-4101 or email [lorijohnson@ufl.edu](mailto:lorijohnson@ufl.edu).  
This session is for older adults and steps to manage pain and chronic diseases No registration required, no cost.

**PLAID IN THE PARK**  
**March 11, 2023 @ 4:00 PM**

Sunset Park  
230 W. 4th Avenue, Mount Dora  
Contact Joe McKie at 904-334-4923 or email [mtdorapipelineband@gmail.com](mailto:mtdorapipelineband@gmail.com).  
<https://cityofmtdorapipelineband.com/>  
Grab your kilts, your shamrocks, and your entire Clan and head over to Sunset Park in Mount Dora for a wee bit of Scottish and Irish entertainment. Celtic music, bagpipes, vendors and Highland Dancers! Great fun for the entire family!

**WILD FLOWERS AND POLLINATORS**

**March 11, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**  
19220 County Road 455, Montverde  
Contact Justin Pouliot at 352-516-7011 or email [justin.pouliot@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:justin.pouliot@lakecountyfl.gov).  
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks>  
Discover the plants that bloom in early spring and provide resources for pollinators such as butterflies, bees and beetles that are busy searching for fuel.

**SHAMROCKIN' BEER & BBQ FESTIVAL**

**March 17, 2023 @ 10:00 AM**  
Gator Harley-Davidson  
1745 U.S. Highway 441, Leesburg  
3 5 2 - 3 8 8 - 5 0 5 5 o r e m a i l  
[info@firefightercharityCF.org](mailto:info@firefightercharityCF.org)  
<https://bbqandchilicompetition.com>  
Hosted by the Firefighter Charity of Central Florida. Friday block party starts at 5 PM; Saturday Charity BBQ and Chili Competition from 10 AM to 6 PM. Live music, food trucks, craft beer tastings, full bars, vendors and more!

**BIG SIT**  
**March 18, 2023 @ 7:30 AM**

McDonald Canal Boat Ramp  
24600 County Road 448A, Mount Dora  
Contact Gallus Quigley at 352-253-4950 or email [parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov).  
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>  
Join park staff on a "Big Sit" where participants will count all the birds seen or heard from within a predetermined 17 foot circle.



Kat Cammack

Continued from page 5

before downloading the app to make clear to users that the Federal government has deemed the app not fit for government mobile devices. Americans deserve to know how TikTok's actions impact their privacy and data security, and this bill is an important first step towards ensuring that they do," said Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

"I want to thank my colleagues from Florida, Reps. Cammack and Soto, for their bipartisan work on the CAUTION Act. This legislation provides additional transparency and advisory labels to ensure users know about the risks of downloading a government-banned mobile app," said Subcommittee Chairman Gus Bilirakis. "It is a step in the right direction as we work to implement safeguards to inform users and protect Americans' privacy. I'm particularly proud that one of our newest Subcommittee members, my friend Kat, has shown remarkable leadership to get this bill in the posture to become the first bill that advances from our Subcommittee today."

"I'm encouraged to see bipartisan support for this legislation on the Energy and Commerce Committee and look forward to its continued path through the House and eventually to the House Floor," Cammack added.

The federal government banned TikTok on owned devices at the end of the 117th Congress. Several U.S. states have also banned TikTok for use on state government-owned devices, and others are currently considering similar legislation.

DeSantis

Continued from page 11

pandemic levels. According to VISIT FLORIDA, 30.1 million domestic visitors traveled to Florida in Q4 2022, representing 21 months of domestic visitation growth from 2019.

"People continue to make Florida their vacation destination because they know that in the Free State of Florida, they can enjoy all that we have to offer without mandates or restrictions," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Despite the federal government's attempts to keep our economy stagnant, Florida's freedom first approach has created an environment that attracts new visitors, fosters new businesses and drives our economy forward."

"We could not be more excited with the incredibly impressive record-breaking visitation seen in 2022," said Dana Young, VISIT FLORIDA President and CEO. "Quarter after quarter, Florida continues to dominate the travel market and our competition, which could not be achieved without the hard work of our local tourism partners. Florida is breaking records despite overseas visitation remaining 28 percent lower than 2019 due to heinous visa wait times and irrational mandates imposed by the federal government. At VISIT FLORIDA, we are committed to building on this growth to ensure Florida continues to be the No. 1 vacation destination in the world."

Additional highlights from VISIT FLORIDA's latest visitation estimates include:

- Florida welcomed 2.0 million overseas travelers in Q4 2022, an increase of 35.5 percent from Q4 2021.

- Canadian visitation to Florida during Q4 2022 accounted for 1 million visitors, an increase of 278 percent from Q4 2021.
- Air travelers accounted for 38 percent of Florida visitors, compared to 41 percent in 2019.

Hotel room nights sold at Florida hotels increased by nearly 13 percent in 2022 compared to 2021. Occupancy rose by 9.4 percent to 70.5 percent, as demand growth significantly exceeded the expansion of supply. Florida welcomed a total of 7.0 million overseas travelers in 2022, an increase of 73 percent over 2021, but still lower than 2019 visitation levels. The lack of overseas travelers is directly correlated to the unscientific vaccine mandate still instituted by the Biden administration in addition to staggering visa wait times. The wait time to receive an interview for visa issuance across the world includes:

- Lima, Peru – 831 days
- Rio De Janeiro, Brazil – 435 days
- Tel Aviv, Israel – 191 days
- Mexico City – 633 days

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