



Pal's Automotive Repair shop, shown here, is informing their audience about the importance of good tires.

## What Is A Political PAC

By TomL

For a long time I have been hearing about Political PACs. So I decided to look it up on the internet. First it is short for "Political Action Committee". Their purpose is raising and spending money to elect and defeat candidates. Most PACs represent business, labor or ideological interests. It's the ideological interests where the trouble comes in. There is always a radical in the group. They want to get their person in office and will go to extreme measures to make that happen, even break the law.

The Marion County School race has done that again. One of the candidates has made charges of being threatened and bullied in hopes that she would drop out of the race. Some history...several races back, employees of the school system actually stole a candidate's identity and tried to use it to their advantage. They were caught by the Marion County Sheriff's office and were not even charged. They were not fired. Back then Sheriff Dean was in office and he was busy trying to damage control a scandal of his own when his person in charge got caught up in a problem.

I for the life of me cannot understand why the candidates or the PAC would attack another opponent and break the law while doing it. Anyway here is what I found on the internet, as follows:

"Political Action Committee (PAC) — A popular term for a political committee organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect and defeat candidates. Most PACs represent business, labor or ideological interests. PACs can give

\$5,000 to a candidate committee per election (primary, general or special). They can also give up to \$15,000 annually to any national party committee, and \$5,000 annually to any other PAC. PACs may receive up to \$5,000 from any one individual, PAC or party committee per calendar year. A PAC must register with the FEC within 10 days of its formation, providing name and address for the PAC, its treasurer and any connected organizations. Affiliated PACs are treated as one donor for the purpose of contribution limits.

PACs have been around since 1944, when the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) formed the first one to raise money for the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The PAC's money came from voluntary contributions from union members rather than union treasuries, so it did not violate the Smith Connally Act of 1943, which forbade unions from contributing to federal candidates. Although commonly called PACs, federal election law refers to these accounts as "separate segregated funds" because money contributed to a PAC is kept in a bank account separate from the general corporate or union treasury.

Many politicians also form Leadership PACs as a way of raising money to help fund other candidates' campaigns. Since June 2008, Leadership PACs reporting electronically must list the candidate sponsoring the PAC, as per the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. Leadership PACs are often indicative

Continued page 10

## Political Forum



OBL (Ocala Business Leaders) held a Political Forum at their regular breakfast meeting so the local Candidates could speak in front of the OBL Members. It was interesting to hear each answer questions and understand what they stood for. State Representative Baxley was in attendance and spoke about what was going on in the State. The speakers were:

### Marion County School Board:

Kelly D King  
Jane Moerlie  
Donnie Prophet  
Nancy Thrower  
Shelia Arnette  
Ed Wilson  
John Peterson

### Marion County Commission:

Kathy Bryant

### Eddie Leedy

Michael Crimi

### Marion County Judicial System:

Bill Ramputti  
Bob Landt  
Bryon Aven  
Sara Ritterhoff Williams  
Tommy Thompson  
Edward Spaight  
LeAnn Mackey Barnes

## Combating Algal Blooms

### Gov. Scott Announces More Action to Combatting Algal Blooms

~\$50 million toward fixes for federal Herbert Hoover Dike, \$700,000 for Lee County~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have reached an agreement on a \$50 million state investment to fund repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike. This agreement follows a \$50 million investment made earlier this year, bringing the State of Florida's total investment in this federal project to \$100 million. After decades of federal inaction, Gov. Scott fought to secure this state funding and secured a commitment from the White House to provide the federal funds to fix the Herbert Hoover Dike. The funding will accelerate critical repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee. Once completed, this project will reduce the need for harmful water releases from the Army Corps of Engineers by allowing more water to be stored in Lake Okeechobee.

Also today, at Governor Scott's direction, DEP is providing \$700,000 to Lee County to combat algae and remove it from various tributaries and canals along the Caloosahatchee River. This funding is part

of the \$3 million grant program through Governor Scott's [July 9 Executive Order 18-191](https://www.flgov.com/2018/07/23/gov-scott-dep-launches-grant-program-to-help-local-governments-clean-up-algal-blooms/). This grant program will help local governments clean up waterways affected by algal blooms. For the full announcement about the grant program, go to <https://www.flgov.com/2018/07/23/gov-scott-dep-launches-grant-program-to-help-local-governments-clean-up-algal-blooms/>

Governor Scott said, "As our communities once again face the threat of harmful algal blooms caused by water releases from Lake Okeechobee, we are continuing to find innovative ways to combat this serious problem and fix the federal government's years of inaction. For decades, Congress has refused to fully fund repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike, leaving our communities at risk. I became the first governor in Florida's history to fund the dike because we have to make sure that our families are safe and that these discharges stop.

"I'm glad that the federal government has finally provided funding to fix the dike, however more must be done. Congress must now approve the EAA Reservoir project. I'm glad to provide this funding to clean up algal blooms and we will keep fighting to make sure that our communities are safe and that our natural resources are protected."

Continued page 10



■ Kevin Sheilley ■

## OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



Over the last few weeks, you have probably heard and read a lot from the Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) on the topic of workforce or Talent Development as we call it. When the CEP Board adopted our new 5-year strategic plan, *Moving*

*Forward-Phase II*, in late 2016 it highlighted Talent Development as one of the two signature new project areas for the CEP. This new emphasis has really come into focus over the last year. I want to discuss why this is such an important emphasis for the CEP and then explain what we are doing.

As communities across the country have been rebounding and growing post-Great Recession, one of the area's that it became apparent had suffered was talent development. As companies, communities, and schools struggled to just remain viable, the importance of investing in workforce often went to the side. When this is coupled with the pending retirement of millions of Baby Boomers, a talent deficit becomes a clear reality. It is our belief that talent development is incredibly significant to the continued growth of our community. In fact, we believe the communities which figure out talent, will be the communities that win the next half century.

I hear every day from our businesses on

the challenges of finding skilled workers. These are viable, living wage careers that have been overlooked for too long. I think we are realizing that the emphasis on everyone attending University not only robbed our community of desperately needed skills but robbed students of the opportunity to truly pursue their passions. We are changing that thanks to these partnerships.

Over the last two years, the CEP and the business community have been partnering closely with the Schools to reimagine and reinvigorate Career/Technical Education. Instead of the traditional model of schools trying to reach out to businesses, we have flipped that conversation to businesses engaging with the schools. Our goal is not to tell teachers how to teach but to provide them with the resources and opportunities to help make learning relevant for their students.

Today, we have more than doubled the number of students in Career/Technical programs. Our efforts were recently lauded as a national model of innovation. The new Career Choice Academies are setting kids up for success by teaching in-demand skills and providing pathways for both work and continuing education. Recently, a major employer approached us to begin discussions on an internship program for Logistics Academy students when they are seniors. It will be two years before we have any seniors in this program, but this company already sees the potential.

However, it doesn't stop there. They not only want interns but want to create a pipeline for these students to graduate high school and be ready to move into 2<sup>nd</sup> level supervisor positions! These are truly CAREER academies.

We are engaging with our schools and teachers daily. Dean Blinkhorn joined the CEP staff last summer and serves as our Director of Talent Development. As a former teacher and business owner, he brings incredible credibility to our efforts. Dean is able to engage as fully as he does thanks to the presenting sponsorship of Townley Manufacturing. This great homegrown company underwrites our efforts in this area. Without their generous investment, we could not be engaging with schools and students as we are.

The mission of the CEP is to be the *catalyst for a prosperous community* and this focus on Talent Development is key to that prosperity. By partnering together, we can keep this community *Moving Forward!*

initiation of construction for Fire Station #7 (completed earlier this year), a rebuilding project, and improved Insurance Service Office (ISO) fire protection rating to Class 2, among other accomplishments.

"The public knows we offer fire and emergency medical services, yet Ocala Fire Rescue's menu of services is plentiful," said Public Information Officer Ashley López. "It is our hope that through this report the public gains insight into the many ways in which we are available and able to serve."

Complimentary copies of Ocala Fire Rescue's Annual Report to the Community will be available at the department's Administrative Office (3001 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St.), while supplies last.

Digital copies can be viewed by visiting [www.OcalaFire.org](http://www.OcalaFire.org).

**Contact: Ashley Lopez, Public Information Officer**

**Telephone: (352) 629-8306**

**Mobile: (352) 817-5914**

## Ocala Fire Rescue Annual Report

(OCALA, Fla.) August 16, 2018 – Ocala Fire Rescue is proud to present the department's second annual report to the community, showcasing the milestones, achievements, and progress made in the year 2017.

Molded by the dynamic nature of the fire service and its demands, Ocala Fire Rescue has continuously served this community since 1885. For more than 133 years the department has evolved to satisfy citizen's needs. The year 2017 was no exception, in fact, it was noteworthy, marking the

**FREE English as a Second Language (ESL) classes** at First Baptist Church of Ocala, 2801 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala, FL 34471. Classes begin Wednesday, August 29th, and are held weekly. All classes begin promptly at 6:00 pm, ending with conversation and refreshments at 7:15 pm. There are 3 levels of classes (beginner, intermediate and advanced) taught by loving & caring instructors. If needed, there are fun & entertaining programs such as Awana for your children, and child care provisions are available, as well as programs for teens and adults. Please contact the church office at (352) 629-5683 for more information.



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

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES



### Civil War:

Last month I wrote how Civil Wars begin. The information I received was from the web about the writings of Jack Minzey who died this year. He studied the subject for many of years and wrote a number of books on the subject. History tells us what happened. The social and political behavior today fits that mold. Hatred and social disorder is out of control. We need more love and respect. If not love and if not respect, then tolerance. No matter who wins the election I would never try to unseat a president that was voted into office. In today's society most people have guns because they feel they need to protect themselves and their families. THEY DO! Today if you don't agree with your neighbor they get violent and verbally abusive. Right now I have someone verbally abusing me over this very story from last month. He says

I have the right to my opinion but don't have the right to my own facts. These facts were not mine. They were a matter of facts in history! No one wants a civil war. Well no law abiding citizen wants civil war but there might be a faction out there that does. When hatred runs so deep that you start hurting others it's too late for that person. They need to go to jail and spend some time thinking about what they have done wrong.

### Education:

Some ten years ago I recognized the fact that the goals for education had gone too far. It was not broken but the politicians said it needed to be fixed. Back in the old days if you wanted to go to college you would take certain classes that would prepare you for college and if you were not going to college there were courses possibly to help you make up your mind what kind of job you wanted to pursue. When it was fixed by the politicians, every student was taking college preparatory courses which are a little harder. Then that caused the dropout rate to increase

and they were leaving many children behind. Remember the political arena created the problem. Now the school system recognizes the fact that it is leaving too many children behind, which means they were not doing their job. Students get out of college with no skills and now our largest need is for skills. I said many years ago we need to teach our children it's OK to be a welder, a truck driver, a painter, a roofer, a plumber etc. Teach them to be the best at what they do! Teach to apply themselves and to speak up without getting mad. Stand for something and be tolerant of others! Save money!

### Choosing your career:

When I was nine I did not like the clothes my dad was buying for me and I told him about it. He said "earn your own money and choose your own clothes". That year I had met the Ft Lauderdale News circulation director who lived in our neighborhood. I ask him if he had a job for me. He looked at me and asked "how old are you boy?" I said almost 10. He asked "what does your dad think about you getting a job?" I said he told me to get a job and earn my own money. His name was Gene Kenny. He talked to my dad and they figured out how I could sell newspapers at the old Draw Bridge on Dania Beach (Florida). On the intercostal the sightseeing boats would come through and

they would open the drawbridge 6 or 8 times every afternoon. It would take about 10 to 15 minutes each time. I would sell papers down the row of cars that would line up. I did very well, made good money for a little boy. Next to the bridge was Wentworth's Realty. My dad and Gene Kenny ask them if I could hang out there. They said it was fine. Many years later I worked for the Hollywood Sun Tattler and Mr. Wentworth son was the editor. Anyway by my 10th birthday I was buying my own clothes and had a mason jar full of money. So I guess you could say I started my newspaper career when I was nine.



## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for October*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**12am, September 19th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, September 26th**

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DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Friends,  
It is a great day to live in America! This week, across the State of Florida, school has begun again. There is much anticipation and excitement from students, parents and teachers. Excited

about the opportunities that lie ahead, and that we live in a great country where anything is possible. A country where a young man who got his start washing cars at Hiers funeral home, could go to school, get a degree and one day become the principle of that company. That same man is now your State Senator, and it is an honor and privilege to serve you in Tallahassee. This is the final column of a short series that has highlighted many of our accomplishments since joining the Senate in 2016.

Last year, your Senator was awarded an "A" by the Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida (ICUF) in recognition of our continued support for higher education in the 2018 legislative session. The ICUF is a diverse association of 29 private, not-for-profit, educational institutions based in Florida that serve more than 130,000 students.

Also in 2018, the Florida Chamber of Commerce recognized your Senator with a Distinguished Advocate award and an honor roll "A" rating. The Florida Chamber's Distinguished Advocate award recognizes lawmakers who fought tirelessly for the

passage of pro-business legislation. This award was given in recognition of an amendment that we championed in the Senate that would promote transparency in the collective bargaining process. It is important for our education professionals to have legitimacy in negotiations when represented in collective bargaining. This amendment will help to provide that legitimacy.

Just last week, The Florida Rehabilitation Council awarded your Senator the Stephen R. Wise Advocacy Award in recognition of our legislative leadership and commitment to create and promote meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This past legislative Session we sponsored and passed HB 1437, which provides state-paid Workers' Compensation coverage for customers of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Division of Blind Services to enhance their work experience activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the Florida Senate. I hope these last few columns have given you better insight into some of the important things that we work on in your Legislature. Nothing is ever complete in Tallahassee, but with your help, we can continue to protect faith, family, freedom and opportunity for everyone in the State of Florida and Senate District 12.

Onward & Upward,  
Dennis Baxley



Caregiver For Your Parents



Choosing the Right Caregiver For Your Parents

(NAPSI)—According to Pew Research, every day, 10,000 Americans turn 65 years old. And that will continue for the next 12 years, reaching 18 percent of the population by 2030. Americans 85 and older will triple in population by 2050.

With a rapidly aging population living longer than past generations, caregivers are in high demand. A cost of care study by Genworth forecasts that there will be a shortage of more than 3 million home care aides in the next decade. To meet this demand, over the years there has been an explosion of home care franchises and independent home care agencies across the country. Yet, as many families discover, finding the right caregiver to meet your family's specific needs can be a challenge.

One innovator looking to solve the caregiver gap is a San Francisco-based company focused on modernizing and improving home care for older adults. By professionalizing its caregiver workforce and developing technology to improve efficiencies, it's able to deliver more consistent and reliable care. Through its Honor Care Network, the company partners with home care agencies in multiple states, making quality care more accessible to more families.

Called Honor, the firm suggests five things that families should consider when hiring a caregiver to ensure a safe and optimal care experience for their parents or

loved ones:

Important Questions to Ask Your Home Care Agency

**1. How do you screen your caregivers for safety?** A responsible, credible home care agency in California always conducts a thorough screening and background check of its caregivers before sending them into a client's home. In addition to Home Care Aide (HCA) mandated certification and Department of Justice fingerprinting and background checks, the best home care agencies go further by screening for DMV driving records, drug testing, and abiding by strict minimum-age requirements.

**2. How do you train your caregivers and verify their skills?** Caregivers should have a solid foundation of training, such as how to use mechanical lifting equipment, basic knowledge of how to support clients living with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, and how to assist with daily living activities such as bathing, grooming and hygiene. Ask if the caregivers are tested on scenario-based skills and if any personality tests are conducted to check for temperament under stress or condition-related situations, such as "sundowning."

**3. What is your performance record for on-time arrivals and no-shows? How promptly do you communicate schedule changes to your clients?** Ask the agency how it manages late arrivals and last-minute cancellations by caregivers. Does it guarantee a replacement? How does it communicate with clients and how often? What is its policy if there's an ongoing tardiness issue?

**4. How do you manage caregiver performance?** Ask how the agency motivates caregivers to provide the best care and client experience. Does it value and know its caregivers' track record and does it continually train caregivers to ensure it has the best talent? Assessing personality and chemistry with clients is also important.

**5. How do your caregivers**

Continued page 7



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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**A letter from Ted:**

Dear Ted: I will try to address each thing you said but pardon me if it does not make sense to you.

YOU SAY:

Ted: how dare you presume!

Ted: You have a lot of gall to attack me

Ted: You actually sound like Trump

TomL: I said I am a patriot!

Ted: You say you are a patriot, but what exactly makes you a patriot?

TomL: I believe in Family, God, and Country. I believe in the laws of our country and the laws say Donald Trump won. If it had been Hillary I would have waited till the next election and voted her out. I would not try to take out a sitting president that won the election!

Ted: Would Jesus have torn babies out of their mother's arms.

TomL: I think Jesus would have told the mother not to break the law and put her child in harm's way.

TomL: You call me a fool. That is your opinion. I'm not going to start name calling with you - that's not my style. Trump won by the electoral vote and that is the law of the land. Get over it!

Ted you slammed me about sharing info from the internet and accused me of wanting a Civil War. I would never want a Civil War but as old as I am, I will stand my ground for what I believe, just like you are doing right now with what you believe, only I would not be so brash. I did not attack you first! Start your own newspaper and print your opinion or I will print your opinion for you, that's my job. Thanks for being a reader!

TomL

**Dear Editor:**

When you run out of other people's money Socialism stops working. It happens every time it is tried. Why do idiots think they can come up with a different outcome?

If Capitalism is off track, how can it be fixed? Maybe capitalism with a small c is worth a try. Put brakes on corrupt practices. Legal plunder.

In 1856 Bastiat gave us the answer. Legal plunder. Where policies that are criminal should not be made legal by lobbyists. My pet legal plunder schemes are derivatives, and hedge funds. There are probably a dozen others by now. What is a Bitcom? Know the definition, but do not grasp the advantage of the thing. Hedge funds and derivatives should be made illegal. The only things backing them are computer entries or, tiny bits of paper, no assets.

The corrupt always dream up schemes that benefit themselves. This was the premier concern of the founding fathers. They used every trick in the book to try to forestall the

corrupt. The founders obsessed over the topic. Franklin gave us a caution: "A republic if you can keep it." Too bad we have not been vigilant enough. The Republic is under siege from the corrupt. We have failed. Have citizens become so corrupt that legal plunder has become acceptable?

If anyone has an idea how to save our republic, and thinks it is worth saving, please speak up, NOW.

One voice crying in the wilderness is NOT going to do it.

D.I.L.

**Dear Editor,**

Well, the primaries in Florida are over and hopefully we will see an end to the demagoguing of the FAIRtax. In order to gain a political advantage over Ron DeSantis, a PAC for Adam Putnam published a video denigrating DeSantis for his support of the FAIRtax. According to the 30 second ad, the FAIRtax, HR 25, would be the end of life as we know it in Florida. Never mind that Vice President Pence was a cosponsor of the FAIRtax all the while he served in the US House of Representatives.

And you were supposed to ignore the fact that the Florida legislature went on record as endorsing the FAIRtax by adopting Senate Memorial 118 which included the following sentence: "This Memorial urges Congress to repeal all taxes on income and enact a national retail sales tax as specified in H. R. 25, the Fair Tax Act of 2013."

Many people in Florida have studied and support H.R. 25 because they have learned that it will:

- rid us of the federal income tax and all its complexity
- rid us of the IRS, the most abusive agency in Washington
- free individuals of all the record keeping and federal tax returns
- greatly reduce the cost of doing business which in turn will create more business and more jobs
- restore the Bill of Rights when it comes to dealing with the federal tax system.

These are "The True Facts about the FAIRtax." Here in Florida we can help the volunteers of the Florida FairTax Educational Association by going to the website: [flfairtax.org](http://flfairtax.org). Learn More. Get Involved. Make It Happen!

Ron Maiellaro  
Ocala

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## Audi Gainesville Has Arrived



### Audi Gainesville Editorial

Audi is famous for revolutionary engineering and progressive design. But not everyone knows that Audi is now here in Gainesville.

"There's not a week that goes by that someone doesn't walk in here and say, 'I had no idea you were here!'" said Thomas Brinkmann, General Manager of Audi Gainesville. "It's not like we're hidden, he chuckled, "since we're located right on Main Street. But the one thing these folks have in common when they do find us, whether it's to buy a car or to have their own Audi serviced, is that they're excited we're here."

Brinkmann has been with Audi Gainesville since before the groundbreaking ceremony in early 2016. With the new 29,000 square foot state of the art dealership—one that created more than 30 new jobs-- he's more than pleased to offer the Audi experience to Gainesville.

"The fact that the University of Florida is located here means that we have a lot of really well educated consumers who appreciate quality. Professors, engineers,

medical professionals, designers and more. Many of them already owned an Audi. But for years, they had to head to Orlando or Tampa for Audi service. Warren Henry Auto Group, who owns Audi Gainesville, wanted to change that. And now if someone here has a desire to acquire a beautifully designed, intelligently built Audi with state-of-the-art technology and peak performance—all while performing efficiently for minimum impact on the environment-- well, let's just say it's nice they don't have to leave town to get one."



## Caregivers

*Continued from page 5*

### communicate with each other about a client's condition during shift changes?

Your parent will likely have more than one caregiver to staff weekly schedules. Ask the agency how each caregiver is notified of a client's daily condition, how that information is communicated to other assigned caregivers to ensure seamless care, and how families are notified, how often and when.

Finding the right caregiver can be less stressful if you know the right questions to ask. Initiating a conversation at the start about what's most important to you in finding the right caregiver can make all the difference.

### Learn More

For further facts and tips, go to [www.joinhonor.com](http://www.joinhonor.com).

## Robots: Shape Humanity



humans and robots can coexist and work together in harmony and are working to debunk many of the fears people have about them.

Mouser Electronics Inc., a leading semiconductor and electronics component distributor based in Fort Worth, TX, and celebrity engineer Grant Imahara, have teamed up again for the fourth consecutive year for their Empowering Innovation Together program.

This year's program is called Generation Robot, which features five videos filmed across the world, including in the U.S., Germany and Japan. Mouser's goal is to reach innovators around the globe by showing how robots have a positive impact on humanity and change how people see the possibility of interacting with them.

Throughout the Generation Robot series, the entire spectrum of robotics will be examined, as will the understanding of how robots not only have a technological impact on society, but also a social and moral one.

The video series begins with the Imahara visiting the Institute for Robotics and Intelligent Machines at Georgia Tech and speaking with the executive director, Dr. Magnus Egerstedt.

There, he explores several aspects of robots, such as the basics of the machines, myths and misconceptions, as well as the hopes for, and fears of, the advancement of robot technology. In the video, Dr. Egerstedt mentions that robots used to be about mechanical engineering, but now modern robots involve psychology, because these machines will be working along with humans and thus they need to understand people.

*Continued page 11*



# Ocala Business Leaders Holds After Hours

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# Ocala Business Leaders Holds After Hours

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*After Hours*



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# Political PAC

Continued from page 1

of a politician's aspirations for leadership positions in Congress or for higher office.” Personally I don't like the word PAC and don't think people should organize one for political purposes. I would recommend that if you are the victim of a radical acting person in a political election, file a complaint with law enforcement. Also file a complaint with the Supervisor of Elections, make them earn their pay. Law enforcement very rarely gets involved, but if they do, make sure you praise them and thank them, because it is unusual. If you are a voter and see it going on, report it and vote accordingly.

# Algal Blooms

Continued from page 1

DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein said, “DEP remains committed to looking for opportunities to partner with local communities to address the impacts of algal blooms, now and in the future. We're pleased to provide Lee County this grant funding, and encourage other local counties to work with us to take advantage of this grant funding and to help us move forward with long-term solutions, including the EAA reservoir and rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike.”

Col. Jason Kirk, Commander of Jacksonville District said, "The signing of this additional agreement truly exemplifies the strength of our federal-state partnership and our collective dedication to expediting rehabilitation efforts of the Herbert Hoover Dike and more broadly our ongoing

collaboration on the restoration of America's Everglades.” Last year, during the Special Legislative Session, Governor Scott fought for and secured \$50 million in state funding to speed up repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike – becoming the first Florida governor to invest state dollars to expedite repairs to this federal project. Together with this fiscal year's funding, Florida has now committed a historic \$100 million in state funding to ensure critical repairs to this federally operated dike are made to protect the state's unique environment.

DEP's grant funding is provided to help communities provide targeted clean-up efforts to quickly reduce and address impacts to significantly impacted areas, such as marinas, boat ramps and other public access areas. Funding from this grant program can be used for services including containment, removal, cleanup, elimination, transportation and disposal of harmful algal blooms in key areas identified by local governments.

Last month, following a tour of the Caloosahatchee River, Governor Scott issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency in Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie Counties to help combat algal blooms caused by the harmful federal water releases from Lake Okeechobee. More information on the emergency order can be found at <https://www.flgov.com/2018/07/09/gov-scott-issues-emergency-order-to-combat-algal-blooms-in-south-florida/>

Also, in June, Governor Scott visited the South Florida Water Management District and ordered DEP to take emergency actions to redirect the flow of water out of Lake Okeechobee to the south.

# Attorney General Bondi's Weekly Briefing



Child Safety Awareness Month



August 17, 2018

August is a busy month for Florida families, as children head back to school and summer break comes to an end. It is also a month dedicated to child safety awareness. Students across our state, this month, will board busses, cross traffic and join carpools going to and from school. It is important that parents, drivers and all Floridians take extra caution to ensure children are safe.

In 2017, nearly half of all children that died in a car crash were not buckled up. This is unacceptable. The simple act of buckling in a child could save a life. Car seats need to be installed correctly. The Florida Highway Patrol offers free car seat installation and safety checks at stations throughout the state. It is also important to take measures to ensure children are not left in a hot car. The temperature inside a parked car can increase 20 degrees in 10 minutes. So if it is 80 degrees outside, the inside of a parked car

could quickly reach 100 degrees. Never leave a child in a car, and if anyone sees a child left in a car they should call law enforcement immediately.

Finally, intersections near schools are now being crossed by thousands of tiny feet. Crossing guards are helping kids get safely across traffic. Florida drivers can help by being patient, obeying crossing guards and minding road signs.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is leading efforts to protect children this Child Safety Awareness Month and has even more safety tips online. I encourage all Floridians to check out the DHSMV website: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/safety-center/child-safety/> and work together to help ensure a happy, safe school year for children across our state. Please share this message with your friends, co-workers and employees.

Brody left his friends to catch up on the news.

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## Robotics

Continued from page 7

The second video, which takes place in Augsburg, Germany, dives into the real meaning of robots and humans working together, as well as the way this interaction will benefit society.

The third video, which comes out in mid-July, will focus on the all-robot-staffed hotel in Nagasaki, Japan, where Imahara investigates the way robots behave utilizing only artificial intelligence.

To watch all the videos and learn more about Mouser and Generation Robot, visit <https://www.mouser.com/empowering-innovation>.

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## Combating Cancer In Young Women



(NAPSI)—Women from the ages of 18 to 50 are the most active group of adult Internet and social media users. And even though women in this age group are less likely to get breast cancer than older women, it does happen. Now, three southern states are making sure these women have reliable online resources.

### Tailored to the Territory

The program could be lifesaving throughout the country. African-American women are

more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer younger, and more likely to get a type of breast cancer that grows quickly and is hard to treat. Louisiana—especially the southern part of the state—has a large African-American population.

Dr. Donna Williams, director of the Louisiana Cancer Prevention and Control Programs (LCP), says she was surprised to see the number of women under 50 in the area with breast cancer.

Many of these cancers were found through a program started by LCP and local partners. The program sponsors two mobile vans carrying equipment to give mammograms, the recommended screening test for breast cancer. Still, diagnosis is just the beginning of the breast cancer journey.

### Raising Awareness

LCP searched for breast cancer resources for young women on the Gulf Coast, but found only a handful. Practically none of them talked about fertility, early menopause or discussing cancer with kids—problems most

older women with breast cancer don't face. So, with a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), LCP started a series of workshops just for younger women with breast cancer. It held meetings all over southern Louisiana and set up a Facebook account.

LCP called the project “SurviveDAT” after the rallying cry of New Orleans Saints football fans: “WHO DAT!”

### Going Regional, Going Viral

When LCP applied for another CDC grant for the successful program, it had a big choice: keep SurviveDAT live or go totally online. While the in-person workshops drew only about 20 people at a time, the Facebook page had gained more than 2,000 followers statewide. The decision was easy from there: It was time to go virtual.

All of Louisiana could be reached with the planned website. But why stop there? LCP also got in touch with cancer control programs in other states. Right away, Mississippi and Alabama signed on, creating SurviveMISS and SurviveAL.

The goal of the “Gulf States Network” was to reach 7,000 users online in the first year. It took only 90 days to exceed that.

### Information Machine

A single small team manages the websites. Each site has the same look and basic structure and facts. Individual states can add regional information such as meeting dates and support group contacts separately.

All the websites share resources such as expert advice, survivor videos and frequently asked questions. Many conferences and other live events are also recorded or streamed live online.

### Looking to the Future

Dr. Williams and her partners want the project to keep growing. Already, cancer control programs in Arkansas and Florida have expressed interest.

And there are more issues to discuss. Women often have concerns about fertility, a good reason to talk to a doctor before beginning cancer treatment. Many are interested in genetic counseling, or speaking with a professional before genetic testing about possible test results and what they could mean.

### Learn More

CDC has a nationwide campaign about breast cancer in young women called Bring Your Brave. To find out about your risk and steps you can take, visit [www.cdc.gov/BringYourBrave](http://www.cdc.gov/BringYourBrave).



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## Remodel Unused Living Space



### Remodel Unused Living Space To Maximize Your Home's Potential

(NAPSI)—If the real estate market has you frazzled or if the notion of trading up leaves you with sticker shock, a home remodeling project may be just the right answer.

#### An Idea

A finished basement, for example, can offer a little extra room to give a growing family space to breathe or to create an income suite to offset mortgage costs. It can also offer the added benefit of bolstering the value of your home. With so many uses, a remodeled basement may be the exact solution to what your home is missing, whether it's additional storage space, a

sound-proofed media room, craft room, guest room or home gym. The possibilities are practically endless.

#### The Advantages

An unfinished basement, on the other hand, can be a source of energy loss, so with a remodeling you can expect to see savings on your monthly heating and cooling costs. Industry experts recommend finishing the space with the proper framing, insulation and vapor barrier to guarantee cozy and inviting rooms. Insulation plays a key role in the comfort of your newly remodeled space and although hidden within your walls, it will make sure the basement stays cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

#### A Problem

Unfortunately, moisture can be a common challenge in many basements. Starting with a dry space is important.

#### An Answer

As a result, builders and contractors often favor an inorganic stone wool insulation that's resistant to mold and mildew growth, such as Rockwool Comfortboard and Comfortbatt products. Not only will they help protect indoor air quality, they're easy to install and won't slump in the wall cavity. This serves to ensure the comfort of your newfound living space, so you can count on

long-term thermal performance for years to come.

Remodeling a basement can be very worthwhile, especially when you consider that moving to a larger home can add significant bulk to your mortgage. To get the most from the project, be sure to practice due diligence, obtain the right permits, and educate yourself on building codes. If you don't have the know-how, it's worth the peace of mind to hire a qualified professional.

## After Hours

Continued from page 9

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## Hemp Health Benefits For Pets



(NAPSI)—NaturVet's veterinarian-formulated pet supplements have progressed over the last 25 years to keep up with the ever-changing needs of pet parents. NaturVet's newest Hemp for Health product line includes four top products—Allergy, Calming, Immune and Joint—that are now available enhanced with Hemp Seed Oil and Hemp Seed Powder, sharing the same great original base formulas that pet parents have relied on for years.

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## Efforts To Deny Patients Coverage



### Americans Overwhelmingly Reject Insurers' Efforts To Deny Patients Coverage

(NAPSI)—A new national poll conducted by YouGov found that 91 percent of Americans believe insurance companies should not be allowed to deny coverage for people with chronic diseases whose premiums are paid by charitable organizations.

Known as "charitable premium assistance," the federally approved practice of patients applying for and receiving help from charities to pay insurance premiums has long been accepted. Yet recent efforts by insurers to undermine the practice have left many people worried about their insurance

coverage. Across the country more than 74,000 dialysis and kidney transplant patients—who are overwhelmingly unable to work because of their illness—rely on help from the American Kidney Fund (AKF) to afford health insurance premiums.

The poll found that 76 percent of respondents believe insurers want to block charitable premium assistance "to increase the company's profits by not providing coverage for people who are very sick."

"Consumers overwhelmingly reject efforts by the billion-dollar health insurers, their lobbyists and their legislative patrons to deny charitable assistance that pays patients' health insurance premiums," said LaVarne A. Burton, president and CEO of AKF. "Consumers are smart enough to see through the insurers' false statements and to recognize insurer efforts to end or limit charitable premium assistance are clear evidence of insurers doing what they do best: trying to find every possible way not to pay for sick people's care," she said. "The question is whether they've been able to find enough legislators who will take the insurers' side instead of protecting sick patients."

The poll showed that individuals are not inclined to vote for legislators who side with insurers. A vast majority of respondents (88 percent) are less willing to vote for a politician who supports the industry's efforts.

### What the Survey Shows

Among the findings:

91 percent of respondents felt private insurance companies should not be allowed to kick patients with chronic diseases off their health insurance just because the patients' premiums are paid by an

organization such as a nonprofit charity.

87 percent of consumers support the government's current position of letting private charities help patients pay their insurance premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket costs when the patient suffers from a debilitating illness such as kidney failure.

71 percent of respondents think patients with a chronic disease should be able to choose their health insurance plan. This number dramatically exceeds those who think state and federal governments (17 percent) or health insurance companies (13 percent) should choose which health insurance a patient with a chronic disease can have.

Concluded AKF's Burton, "I believe people inherently understand that if insurers are successful in their campaign against people with kidney disease, people with other chronic diseases will be easy next targets. We'll continue to protect patients by working with legislators and regulators at the national and state levels."

As the nation's leading independent nonprofit working on behalf of the 30 million Americans with kidney disease, AKF is dedicated to ensuring that every kidney patient has access to health care and that every person at risk for kidney disease is empowered to prevent it. AKF provides a complete spectrum of programs and services: prevention outreach, top-rated health educational resources, and direct financial assistance enabling one in five U.S. dialysis patients to access lifesaving medical care, including dialysis and transplantation.

### Learn More

For further facts, visit [www.kidneyfund.org/therealstory](http://www.kidneyfund.org/therealstory).

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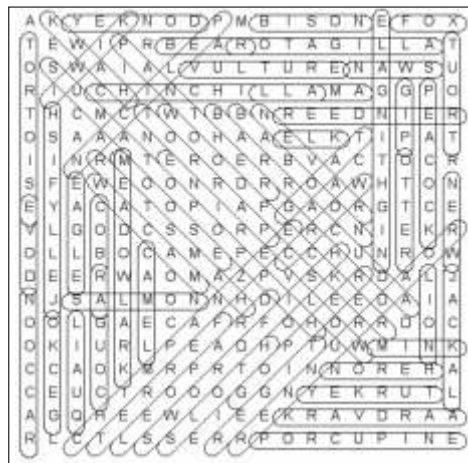
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