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DELIVERED TO THE SR 200 CORRIDOR

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Rescue responded to reports of a vehicular accident with rollover, Saturday, Sept. 15 at 3:23 p.m.

Pine Avenue, firefighters encountered an and transported to the hospital. Two of upside down sports utility vehicle (SUV) with passengers in need of extrication, and a minivan nearby. A utility pole taken

(OCALA, Fla.) Sept. 17, 2018 - Ocala Fire down during the collision lay on the ground.

Crews assessed the state of the patients, stabilized the SUV and began extrication. Arriving at the corner of SW 10 Street. and A total of four patients were identified the four patients were trauma alerted. Ocala Police Department and Marion County Fire Rescue also responded.

Made in the

By TomL

Where was the American Flag made that you are pledging allegiance too? Millions of American Flags that we pledge to are made in China. To date we don't have tariffs on them. "I say we should not let anyone import them here!" I was talking to a local business that sells made in the USA flags. He says people are selling these flags online and it does not seem to matter where it's made! My flags were made by the American worker, transported to stores all over the USA by trucking companies and sold in the stores here in the USA. They cost a little more, but they should be worth it to the people pledging to flag. Some of the people making the flag could be vets or

family members of those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. So please take the time to look at the flag you are buying and look at the flag you are pledging to and make sure it is made in the USA, the greatest country on earth! Look at all of the products you buy, I mean everything including groceries, especially meats & produce. Steaks grown in the USA and processed in the USA will cost more, but you know what is in the meat. A cattle rancher in another country could spray a field with pesticides while the beef steers are grazing there. The pesticide is then in the steers' stomachs. Do you see what I mean? Buy USA!

TomL said that!

Voluntary Nationwide

Recall



Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, a division of Pfizer Inc., is voluntarily recalling one lot of Children's Advil® Suspension Bubble Gum Flavored 4 FL OZ Bottle because of customer complaints

that the dosage cup provided is marked in teaspoons and the instructions on the label are described in milliliters (mL).

Pfizer concluded that the use of the product with an unmatched dosage cup marked in teaspoons rather than milliliters has a chance of being associated with potential overdose. The most common symptoms associated with ibuprofen overdose include nausea, vomiting, headache, drowsiness, blurred vision and dizziness.

Children's Advil® Suspension Bubble Gum Flavored 4 FL OZ Bottle temporarily reduces fever, relieves minor aches and pains due to the common cold, flu, sore throat, headaches and toothaches. Children's Advil® Suspension Bubble Gum Flavored 4 FL OZ Bottle, NDC 0573-0207-30, lot R51129 was distributed nationwide to wholesalers, distributors and retailers in the United States from May 2018 through June 2018.

Find more information at https://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm61 8675.htm

Print Newspapers

PRINT NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR **DECLINE**

In the US one of the largest print publications, with 13.2 million circulation, has been able to move only 750,000 to using digital format. Actually the same is true in the top three. AARP is the largest and Costco Connection is one of the top three.

A print newspaper is tangible, people can sit at the breakfast table with a cup of coffee and read the paper and any national poll will tell you that. Most full size tabloid newspapers are at least six times bigger than a smart phone and easier to manipulate. On a full size screen it is something else. I read our papers before we release it and it is easy to read on a full size computer screen and easy to go to the next page or back up.



New members of the Ocala Business Leaders are pictured here along with the current president, Robert Heagy on left, and new

members receiving their certificates of membership. Good luck to the new members.

Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & **ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**



primary focuses of the has been to raise the wage level in our community. From our initial 5-year strategic plan (Moving Forward), one of the three BIG goals has been to not only attract new jobs but jobs which pay

an average wage which is 15% higher than the county average. We evaluate every project we are working against this measure and we ask local government to only incent those businesses and jobs which will meet this standard.

The Census Bureau and various other economic entities provide a variety of ways for us to track this growth. The primary metric we use is the Average Weekly Wage as reported in the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Today, the average wage which is required for us to incent a project is over \$42,000/year. This is a 27% increase over the initial target wage. Our AVW has grown nearly 9% in the last two years which is nearly triple the state

To put in regional perspective, in 2012 the average weekly wage in the Ocala MSA (Marion County) was 90% of the that number in Gainesville, 87% of Tallahassee and Lakeland, and 95% of Daytona Beach. Using the latest year end numbers, the Ocala

One of the goals and Tallahassee and Lakeland, and 102% of Daytona Beach. In other words, while these CEP from its inception communities have seen their AVW grow, ours has grown more quickly.

Another way to track this is per capita income. In the latest year available, the Ocala area per capita income grew by 2.4%. This is 50% faster than the US average and more than double the Florida average.

A final measure and the newest to be released in Median Household Income. Many economists and statisticians prefer medians over averages to balance out the extremes. From 2016 to 2017, the Median Household Income in the US grew by 1.8%. In Florida it grew by a more robust 3.4%. In Marion County, it ballooned by an incredible 11.5%!!! This is a truly remarkable number. When compared against our ten benchmark cities (similar size communities from throughout the Southeastern US against whom the CEP measures a number of stats), this growth ranked#1.

The CEP is committed to continuing to grow wages and opportunities in our community by focusing on businesses and jobs which contribute to this growth. We will continue to aggressively attract businesses which support this effort; proactively seek to retain and support existing businesses including our dynamic healthcare sector; encourage entrepreneurship; engage businesses with education to ensure students have the skills MSA is now 95% of Gainesville, 92% of necessarily for these opportunities; and

business climate which supports all these

The mission of the CEP is to be the catalyst for a prosperous community. By partnering together, we can keep this community *Moving Forward!*

Ocala Fire Rescue

Ocala Fire Rescue Celebrates Pinning Ceremony

(OCALA, Fla.) Sept. 21, 2018 – Ocala Fire Rescue welcomed two firefighters to the department during a pinning ceremony held at City Hall, 110 SE Watula Ave., Friday, Sept. 21.

Undergoing a demanding hiring process and a two week training period, Firefighters Rasheed Steward and Isabel Truman successfully completed the City of Ocala fire department's candidate testing process.

partner with local government so we have a In celebration, a pinning ceremony was held. With family members and uniformed personnel as witnesses Firefighters Steward and Truman recited the oath cementing their commitment to serving this community, making their employment official.

> The ceremony was preceded by a presentation of two Heart Saver awards. The awards were presented on behalf of the American Heart Association to Ocala Police Department Officers Shelby O'Grady and Josh Warner for their life saving actions during an emergency on Interstate 75, Tuesday, Sept. 4. Captain Brandi DuCoeur was also recognized for her recent promotion from Fire Equipment Operator to Captain/Inspector.

For more information, please contact Ocala Fire Rescue at 352-629-8306.

Pictured from left to right are Assistant Fire Chiefs Anthony Ortiz and Michael Alsup, Fire Chief Shane Alexander, and Firefighters Rasheed Steward and Isabel Truman.





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Attorney General Bondi's Weekly **Briefing**



September 21, 2018

No matter how big or small the target is, identity theft is a devastating crime that can leave individuals and families with heavy financial hardships. Understandably, victims can experience high levels of anxiety and emotional distress for months and even years trying to clear their names.

This week, my Office of Statewide Prosecution successfully prosecuted a Palm Beach County man on two counts of public assistance fraud and two counts of identity theft. The defendant stole names, social security numbers and dates of birth from hundreds of victims.

Michelson Janvier used this information to apply for Food Stamp benefits, otherwise known as SNAP/EBT benefits through the Florida Department of Children and Families. Janvier physically obtained EBT cards in the victims' names, using them to make purchases at numerous South Florida retailers and even trafficked in food stamps at a market in Hialeah. Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Jonathan Bridges and Patricia

Abdi prosecuted this case.

In 2017, Florida ranked second among U.S. states in identity theft complaints. Anybody can have their identity stolen. If you do fall victim, my Identity Theft Victim Kit is a useful tool to curb the damage and protect your finances. The kit provides specific instructions on combating identity theft, along with how to properly file police reports and work with your financial institutions.

Identity thieves are very conniving and use multiple techniques to steal information. Please take steps now to protect your information by visiting http://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/



False Information about FAIRtax

Putnam has endorsed false information and apply fairly to all citizens. about the FAIRtax bill HR 25 as cosponsored by Ron DeSantis. FAIRtax is all consumers, are still paying over \$0.23 not in addition to the federal income tax. per dollar in hidden/embedded business The FAIRtax is REPLACEMENT tax for the present income/payroll tax system. prices. The FAIRtax eliminates this Representative DeSantis understands the evils of the present federal income/payroll tax system.

Florida has no state income tax. Unlike other states which have both state income taxes and state sales taxes the state of Florida receives its revenue from a state sales tax. This appeals to many who are moving to Florida to escape their states' income taxes and, more importantly, to have financial liberty. Residents choose when they pay state sales taxes by their spending habits. All the while all people who make purchases in the state contribute to the state coffers. What is working best for Florida is also best for the country by having FAIRtax ,the national sales tax,

Florida governor candidate Adam provide the same amount of federal revenue

Today seniors are not tax free as they, like taxes that are collected through higher deceitful tax practice. The bill replaces the current standard deduction in the income tax form with a monthly tax refund called the Prebate. That amounts to \$233 per adult and \$83 per dependent to untax all legal residents up to subsistence level spending. Thus you control how much tax you pay. You are in charge of your effective tax rate by your spending habits.

The FAIRtax eliminates the federal income tax, payroll tax, withholding tax and the required minimum IRA distribution starting at age 70 ½. I urge candidate Putnam and all voters to learn more about the FAIRtax at http://bigsolution.org/

Nick and Barb Rudelic



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Nick Navetta Financial Advisor 11 NE 1st Ave Ocala, FL 34470 352-629-2165

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> **Edward Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Marion County Genealogical Society Meeting

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet Thursday October 18, 2018 at 2 PM at the Marion County Public Library located at 2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. in Ocala. A brief business meeting will be followed by the October program. For further information, contact Joel Swanson at (352)897-0840 or president@mcgsocala.org.

5th Annual Critter Trail 5K Run/Walk

Fundraiser @ Silver Springs State Park. All funds are used in the park to help protect and enhance our beautiful natural

https://runsignup.com/Race/ FL/SilverSprings/CritterTrail5k 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



By TomL

I guess the question today is Resist or Results? The American people are smarter than some would like us to think. The working people shopping a Walmart or spending

money are what make our economy work. More and more of them are getting the idea that they need to vote. The working person was suppressed for eight years and now they are beginning to understand.

In the past, minorities have been promised a better way of life without contributing anything. That does not work. Look at all the people trying to flee other countries that have Socialism. Again it will only work for a little while. The rich move their money to another country where they don't have to support people who don't want to work.

All can I say is, to the working man and woman, please pay your taxes - 12 million undocumented residents are depending on

There are some interesting photos floating around the internet. The Senate nominating committee proceedings were disrupted by a number of paid disruptors. Witnesses reported that one of the women started shouting "stop Kavanaugh". She was removed and she went straight to the person that was known as the Paymaster and pictures showed her receiving what looked like a pretty hefty amount of cash. My first question is... Is that legal? Can the



Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for November Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown 12am, October 17th Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator 12am, October 24th

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whoever is paying them to disrupt meetings. Who is paying for this problem? The list is

I don't like some of the things the President has done and or said but it is going to take someone like him to clean up Washington - someone who can get down & dirty! The same for the world trade. America needs to hold its head up. Have you ever heard "be careful not to wake the sleeping giant?" I always thought it was China but now I think it's us. America is the sleeping giant. Many legal residents of this country (TAX PAYERS) would like to know why we pay countries who hate us in the first place. Do we think we can change their minds by giving them money? Well it has not worked. Meanwhile there are people in these same countries being starved, tortured and killed, some in the most inhumane ways to die by debilitating gas, some die slowly.

I had a guy send me a message about throwing papers to his yard, he said "why don't you concentrate on just going online only instead of throwing this rag in my yard?" On the other hand I had a husband and wife send me a message that they love to sit at the breakfast table and read the paper over a cup of coffee. I would love to cut the expense of printing the papers. Let's see... I would no longer have to pick them up in the dark, pay people to bag them, loading them into a van and taking them to the carriers. All this I pay for because print newspapers will always be a way of life. It is a tangible item. When you run an ad in a paper and a reader is reading the newspaper, the lights flicker and then computer screen goes black, the newspaper is still there to read. You can even use it after reading to wrap your fish in it or line your bird cage; I even heard some say they clean their windows, etc.

A writer who has written twenty two books called me from Jacksonville. He saw the paper and wanted to talk and maybe meet next time he comes to the area. He likes the Villages and might want to move here. I mentioned it to Karin Nicely who said the moneything.

paymaster be jailed or at least expose same writer had contacted her. The paper does get around. I get calls from Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, Atlanta even Dania Beach Florida where I spent my early years.

Great short story, last month I told a story about my first newspaper job at age nine selling papers at a draw bridge in south Florida. It seems there was someone doing the same thing, in the very similar way just a few miles from where I was selling papers. He saw the story I wrote and called. He said he just wanted to talk to someone who led a similar life the same area. When comparing our ages, I was the senior by ten years. But it was fun talking about the good old days when a kid could work outside the home and be safe. Both things have changed. That's why I live in the woods.

Fox News: I like fox news because they are not trying herd their watchers around like sheep to their way of thinking. I think they are fair but biased. How could you not be biased with all that is going on in the Federal Government? The worst in my opinion is Kerry going to Iran and having secret meeting telling their leaders to wait out the president and he would put their deal back together. Meanwhile Obama is doing what no other past president has done and that is interfere with the current president. Anyway back to Fox News. You can only tell the story so many times until it just becomes old news. Maybe in about two hours in today's light speed world. They need to diversify. When I get tired of the regular Fox News I go to the Financial Fox program. Recently the storm hype was ridiculous. Hurricanes are tragic enough but Rush Limba called it. Now remember this Hurricane hype has gone on 4 to 5 days. Rush said "news media people will go out in the storm in rain coats, let the wind blow them around and tell people don't go out it's dangerous."

I really think the national weather people could predict that the hurricane was going to do what it did. A lot of federal money exchanging hands. A number of states ask for federal money days before it hit. I hate that we lost lives but something just make me feel uncomfortable about the whole

Continued page 7



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DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Serious Business

Friends, some very serious questions will be answered by you this November and never have the

prospects for Florida's future been in more stark contrast as we are looking at two very different visions in the Governor's race. Ron DeSantis (R) represents a solid free enterprise, strong Florida and strong America plan, based on close alignment with our President's worldview. It is a path of protecting core American values of faith, family, freedom and opportunity. This path has led to unprecedented economic stability, job growth, low unemployment, government financial stability (Florida is currently #1), lowest violent crime rate in 47 years, and significant investments in making capital welcome. In polarizing contrast, the Tallahassee Mayor Gillum is a far left socialist democrat who is openly proposing higher taxes, more central control of government, and is closely aligned with George Soros and his post-America globalist worldview. Meanwhile, no one is seriously addressing the Mayor's corruption concerns, mismanaged storm recovery, and high crime rate (highest in the State of Florida) that is plaguing the City of Tallahassee under Gillum's regime.

On November 6, you will answer these

three questions. First, who do we want to lead our State as Governor, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Chief Financial Officer? Second, will we maintain conservative majority leadership of the Florida Senate, Florida House of Representatives and the U.S. Congress? Finally, what will Florida's Constitution look like after you weigh all the proposed amendments? (when in doubt, vote NO!)

Our State and our Country are counting on you! Your vote has never mattered more. Senator Dennis Baxley

Upcoming Diabetes Classes

OCALA, Fla.—During short-term illnesses, many people interrupt their normal habits to help fight their symptoms. For example, they may eat chicken noodle soup and drink a lot of water to speed up their recoveries. When someone is facing a chronic illness like diabetes, however, there may be long-term changes that people need to make to their daily habits to ensure they stay as healthy as possible.

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County is holding a series of free Diabetes Self-Management classes starting Oct. 2 so residents can learn more about diabetes and the changes they may need to

make to their daily habits if they have it. The six-week class will cover: understanding diabetes, risk factors, eyes, teeth, toes and feet, physical activity, meal planning, preventing complications, and medications and medical care. Class locations, dates and times are:

· Belleview Public Library (13145 SE County Highway 484, Belleview)

Each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon from Oct. 2 to Nov. 6.

· Florida Department of Health in Marion County (1801 SE 32nd Ave., Ocala)

Each Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. from Oct. 4 to Nov.8.

· Benevolent Church of God (15490 N. U.S. Highway 441, Reddick)

Each Saturday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. from Oct. 20 to Nov. 24, 2018.

Anyone can attend the classes. Interested residents are encouraged to pre-register. To register or find out more information, contact Demi Danso-Odei at 352-644-2618 or Demi.Danso@FLHealth.gov.

In Florida, it is estimated that more than 2.4 million people have diabetes and more than 5.8 million have prediabetes. Diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death for all races and third leading cause of death for black residents in Marion County according to state data. Nationwide, it is the seventh leading cause of death for both men and women (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The number of people diagnosed with diabetes has more than tripled in the last 20 years in the U.S. The three most common types of diabetes are Type 1, Type 2 and gestational diabetes (diabetes while pregnant). Prediabetes can lead to Type 2 diabetes.

A blood test from your health care provider



can determine if you have diabetes or prediabetes. Early treatment can prevent serious problems diabetes can cause, such as loss of eyesight, kidney damage, stroke, nerve damage and foot problems. An estimated 8.1 million Americans have diabetes but don't know it. Find out your risk for developing diabetes at https://doihaveprediabetes.org/.









■ ONE PERSON'S OPINION =

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

way they are? Why can't they be nicer to each other, or just leave others alone. The Power Luster's and Greed Mongers need help. Most of us only need to feel comfortable and we can be content, others need luxurious. sumptuous, lives, even if it is at our expense. Is it a disease? How do we fix this? I do not want a luxurious, or sumptuous life. This very week, I found the most tedious, but enlightening book, that deals with this very issue: Neither Left Nor Right: Preventing America's Decline into Socialism, by Charles Konia, M.D. Also looking for the flaws that need to be, and can be, corrected in Capitalism.

I have given it thought, and could not handle a luxurious kind of life. Have you ever given any thought to what would constitute a pleasant life for yourself? What is the way to get a quality education. Elites

Reason 1. My quest: Why humans are the can you handle? Realistically? Could you, or would you want to handle a 21 bedroom house? Yuck!!!!

> I want a happy life. Good family, good friends, ability to laugh, feel safe, ability to make my own decisions, ability to know what I can afford and live accordingly. God gave me a brain, I want to use it.

> Reason 2. John Dewey father of American Education started it, with his Dumbing Down Education Theory. Common Core seems to be the culmination of the Process.

> Can humans find happiness? Not if we do not even give it a thought.

Get rid of Phonics. Math. Education as we know it. See: John Dewey's Plan to Dumb Down America, May 1898, Camp Constitution Press. Look it up

Do It Yourself Knowledge Accumulation

to you. Dewey gave this as the reason for the enough to know how to read on line. They Dumbing Down, he proposed.

American children are being brain andtextandemail. washed, and propagandized. Look at the text books. Scandalous.

At first, sitting and reading book after book is hard, but it has become a joy, something you look forward to doing. time. TV time can be sacrificed.

Try it, you might like it!!!!

Knowledge is the Crown Jewel in a crumble... person's life

D.I.L.

From a reader:

My husband and I would rather read the glare, and made him take it off. physical paper than read online. If we got a Something about reading the paper and having coffee...

Some areas where you newspapers are

never want you to learn what they are doing delivered, people aren't computer savvy may have a smart phone but use it only to call

Sent to me by DJ L

Must Read on NFL

NFL History...history not often reported Wanting to learn can become addictive. A or leaked to the ticket holders. I hope this good addiction. Take the time, make the helps you; it opened my eyes, to better understand when and why the public's respect for the NFL organization started to

- * In 2012 the NFL had an issue with Tim Tebow kneeling before each game to pray, they also had an issue with Tebow wearing John 3:16 as part of his eye-black to avoid
- In 2013 the NFL fined Brandon newspaper he and I would both read it. Marshall for wearing green cleats to raise awareness for people with mental health disorders.
 - In 2014 Robert Griffin III (RG3) entered a post-game press conference wearing a shirt that said "Know Jesus Know Peace" but was forced to turn it inside out by an NFL uniform inspector before speaking at the podium.
 - In 2015 DeAngelo Williams was fined for wearing "Find the Cure" eye black for breast cancer awareness.
 - In 2015 William Gay was fined for wearing purple cleats to raise awareness for domestic violence. (Not that the NFL has a domestic violence problem...).
 - In 2016 the NFL prevented the Dallas Cowboys from wearing a decal on their helmet in honor of 5 Dallas Police officers killed in the line of duty
 - 2016 the NFL threatened to fine players who wanted to wear cleats to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11.

So tell me again how the NFL supports free speech and expression. It seems quite clear based on these facts that the NFL has taken a position against any action by NFL players demonstrating RESPECT for any issue: For God, social causes such as mental health, cancer, domestic violence, for cops killed arbitrarily for being cops, or for the Memory of 9/11...

BUT they will allow demonstrations of DISRESPECT for our National Flag, our National Anthem, for America, and for the American People, if it will help mollify a particular Group and its supporters. That is who and what the NFL now has shown itself







Publisher's

Continued from page 4

I was through five major hurricanes in south Florida as a kid and no one gave us money to rebuild. The town council met, figured out how to come up with the money to fixed the schools and neighbors helped each other. Yes there was loss of life and it hurt just as bad back then as it does now. There was no federal money, no bailouts!

I was sent an interesting message...I returned my Niki's because they hurt my feet while standing for the National Anthem! Another person said I can't afford to throw away or burn my Nicki's, so I took a magic marker and blackout the logo!

What say you? tloury@att.net





Show & Dance and Debris



Tickets to The fall Johnny Mello Show & Dance are now on sale. If you like Doo Wop, Country & Rock N Roll, you'll love this show. You'll enjoy

seven different singers live on stage, a special 10-gift basket raffle, a 50/50 cash drawing, line and regular dancing, lots of door prizes and much more.

It's a fundraiser with net proceeds benefiting Have A Heart For Companion Animals, Inc., as they continue their animal welfare education efforts. They are a 501 c-3 not for profit organization.

The show is being staged at the Lady Lake American Legion Hall in Lady Lake (466 & Rolling Acres Road). (Door open at 5:30 p.m. on Friday 10/26/2018.) Showtime: 6-9.

Tickets are \$15 per person and if you buy 6 or more, you can have a table reserved just for your group. Tickets are available at Whole Earth Pet Supply, in The Villages or

www.thejohnnymelloshow.com.

You can bring your own snacks but beverages must be purchased at the show. This show is open to the public.

For further information, Question and Directions Please Call 352-687-1776

Johnny Mello Tree Trimming



Tree Trimming and Debris Removal **Information for City Residents**

OCALA, Fla. (Sept. 13, 2018) – The City of Ocala Public Works Department, Sanitation Division would like to provide the following tips to City residents to keep them safe and informed when selecting a company to perform tree work on their property this fall.

The threat of severe weather events, declining tree health or residents' desire to have trees removed on their property creates a heightened awareness of trees and their threat to homes and businesses," said Dwayne Drake, Sanitation Division Head, City of Ocala. "It is important for residents to know what their tree trimming and debris removal options are and what they should expect from a tree service company.

- All contractors, or those doing the work, are responsible for hauling off all tree debris immediately upon completion of the job.
- Residents will be responsible for any debris not hauled off, not the City of Ocala.
- Residents should not pay in full

until all work is completed and the debris is removed.

- Residents should obtain contact information from the contractor, or those doing the work.
- Contractor information should be visible on their vehicles.
- Residents are strongly encouraged to use contractors who are licensed and
- Tree debris should not be placed in front of vacant lots.
- If tree work is done specifically by the homeowner and is placed out for collection, any pile over 4' x 5' x 6' is considered a chargeable load. Residents will receive a notice from the City for the cost to remove and would have seven days to remove it or they will have to pay the City for removal. Debris must be no more than four feet in length and placed next to the road at the location where the work is completed.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Public Works Department, Sanitation Division at 352-351-6697.





From the Governor's Desk

The industries with the highest growth over the year in Jacksonville were leisure and hospitality with 5,800 new jobs, and professional and business services with 4,600 jobs. The Jacksonville area once again rounded out the top five metro areas in job demand, with 20,328 openings, and had the fifth-highest number of openings for highskill, high-wage STEM occupations with 5,491 online openings.

As of August, Florida's unemployment rate remained at a low of 3.7 percent, a drop of 7.1 percentage points since December 2010; this drop is faster than the national decline of 5.4 percentage points. In the past year, 121,000 people entered Florida's labor force, a growth of 1.2 percent, which nearly doubled the national labor force growth rate of 0.7 percent.

Mote Marine Laboratory

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that the State of Florida will direct a \$2,178,000 investment to test innovative technologies to mitigate the effects of red tide utilizing specialized clay field experiments and other innovative approaches for controlling and mitigating the impacts of red tide including expansion of Mote Marine Laboratory's Ozone

Treatment System. Mote Marine Laboratory has continuously and successfully tested the Ozone systems in both their tanks at the Mote Marine Laboratory aquarium in Sarasota and most recently in canals in Boca Grande. These systems have proven to successfully clean water, ridding it of the algae that causes red tide. Three additional mitigation technologies are also in development at Mote Marine Laboratory. Last week, Governor Scott announced a partnership between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and world-renowned experts and scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Mote Marine Laboratory, the University of South Florida (USF) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to focus on using a form of specialized clay to quell the effects of red tide. Red tide is naturally-occurring algae that has been documented along Florida's Gulf Coast since the 1840's and occurs nearly every year. For more information on red tide in Florida, go to

http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/faq/.

Governor Scott said, "As our state continues to battle naturally-occurring red tide along our Gulf Coast, we will stop at nothing to help our communities deal with this issue. Today, I'm proud to announce the latest of our aggressive actions to fight red tide and direct nearly \$2.2 million to Mote

Marine Laboratory to expand its Ozone coast and canal systems. The initiative will Treatment Systems, and fund work of a new partnership between the state and world- potential mitigation products through renowned scientists that we announced last laboratory, mesocosm and pilot-scale field week between FWC, Woods Hole, Mote deployments that may have applications for Marine Laboratory, USF and DEP to conduct other harmful algal blooms throughout new field testing of a specialized clay focused Florida and around the world." on quelling red tide.

"Last week, I urged FWC to create a new reconvene the Harmful Algal Bloom Task shores, we have directed more than \$14 stop working until our communities recover from red tide and the innovative and week show our resolve to act quickly and do scott-fwc-should-create-new-red-tideof our state.'

Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory said, "Mote Marine Executive Order 18-221 declaring a state of Laboratory welcomes this significant support emergency due to impacts of red tide. To from Governor Scott to build on the wealth of knowledge that has resulted from many years funding totaling \$13 million for of impactful research collaborations with communities impacted by red tide and blue-FWC and other partners by launching a rapid response initiative that will utilize applied science and innovative technology approaches for controlling and mitigating the impacts of red tide. The primary focus of this initiative will be to determine the most effective and ecologically sound methods for mitigating adverse impacts from the harmful algae, K. brevis, along the southwest Florida

be structured to rapidly examine novel

Last week, Governor Scott wrote a letter to the FWC commissioners urging the Florida Center for Red Tide Research and Commission to create the Florida Center for Red Tide Research as a new resource for Force and since red tide began impacting our local communities impacted by red tide, reestablish the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom million in grants and other funding to combat Task Force, and request an increase of this natural phenomenon. Florida will not funding for red tide research during the upcoming 2019 Florida Legislative Session. See the Governor's letter at deliberate steps we have taken over the past https://www.flgov.com/2018/09/20/govwhatever it takes to get results for the families research-center-reconvene-harmful-algalbloom-task-force/

> In August, Governor Scott issued date, Governor Scott has directed grant green algae.

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- Promote more local control of our school system and your tax dollars
- Bring common sense discipline to our schools
- Work to keep our children safe!

Shelia Arnett

Marion County School Board, District 5 Candidate

First Friday Art within Ocala's historic downtown, event festivities include over 35 artist displays. Walk Returns



Oct. 5

OCALA, Fla. (Sept. 14, 2018) – The First Friday Art Walk returns to downtown Ocala Friday, Oct. 5 from 6 to 9 include the following special performances and activities:

> 6 to 9 **p.m.** – Live

music by Chris Ryals on the main event stage located at the downtown square near the gazebo.

- 7 p.m. Contemporary dance performance by West Port High School's MCCA Dance Program.
- **8 p.m.** The Arts District Studio will present a zombie-themed dance performance.
- Free hands-on art activities for all ages will be provided throughout the event by 98.5 KTK, Appleton Museum of Art, Art Army of Ocala, Discovery Center, Karate America Ocala, Marion County Public Library, the Ocala Chippers and Painting with a Twist.

The First Friday Art Walk occurs from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first Friday of each month from September through May annually. Located

live entertainment, free family art activities and extended shopping hours.

For more information, please contact the First Friday Art City of Ocala Cultural Arts Department at Walk Returns 352-629-8447 or artwalk@ocalafl.org or visit www.ocalafl.org/artwalk.

Beef Jerky Recalls

Junior's Smokehouse Processing Plant p.m. and will Recalls Beef Jerky Products due to include the Possible Foreign Matter Contamination

> Class II Recall 083-2018 Health Risk: Low Sep 21, 2018 Congressional and Public Affairs Autumn Canaday (202) 720-9113 Press@fsis.usda.gov

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21, 2018 -Junior's Smokehouse Processing Plant, an El Campo, Texas establishment, is recalling approximately 690 pounds of ready-to-eat teriyaki beef jerky products that may be contaminated with extraneous materials, specifically pieces of hard metal, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced today.

The ready-to-eat teriyaki beef jerky items were produced on Aug. 9, 2018. The following products are subject to recall:

4 oz. plastic pouches of "BUC-EE'S HILL COUNTRY BRAND TERIYAKI BEEF JERKY, MADE IN TEXAS FROM SOLID STRIPS OF BEEF, READY TO EAT," labeled with

BEST BY 08-09-2019, and a lot code of 220-272.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 48213" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to a retail locations in Texas.

The problem was discovered on September 17, 2018, when the establishment received a consumer complaint from a retail store customer regarding metal in the teriyaki beef jerky product.

There have been no confirmed reports of adverse reactions due to consumption of these products. Anyone concerned about an injury or illness should contact a healthcare

Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase.

FSIS routinely conducts recall effectiveness checks to verify recalling firms notify their customers of the recall and that steps are taken to make certain that the product is no longer available to consumers.

Consumers and members of the media with questions about the recall can contact Scott Chambers, chief executive officer of Junior's Smokehouse Processing Plant, at (979) 533-3544.



Flu-Fighting **Facts**



(NAPS)—The flu is nothing to sneeze at. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza has resulted in between 9.2 million and 35.6 million illnesses annually since 2010. The best way to stay out of such statistics, the CDC says, is for everyone who is eligible and at least 6 months old to get a flu shot as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

To help, all CVS Pharmacy and MinuteClinic locations have the vaccine available seven days a week with no appointment needed.

Study Shows

That may be just as well, since the annual survey, conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of CVS Pharmacy [1], found that two-thirds of those surveyed get a flu vaccine every year or plan to get one this year, a 5 percent increase from last year.

One reason so many are flocking to get the shot is the knowledge of last year's flu season—which according to the CDC had flu levels that were the highest observed

Continued page 10



Flu-Fighting Facts

Continued from page 9

since 2009. Twenty-two percent of those surveyed[2] say that knowledge of last year's severe flu season makes them more likely to get a flu shot this year. On a similar note, among the 27 percent of parents of children under 18 whose child did not get the flu vaccine last year, 26 percent say they are more likely to get their child vaccinated this year after learning about the notably high flu levels during last year's flu season.

The percentage who get vaccinated at a pharmacy stayed at 22 percent, but the percentage of employed adults who get vaccinated at their workplace fell from 22 percent to 15 percent while those who got vaccinated by a health care professional rose from 44 percent to 48 percent.

The survey also found that doctors' opinions (39 percent), where insurance is accepted (38 percent), and convenience (33 percent) rank among the top three factors in determining where to go for the shot. The flu vaccine is a preventive service under the Affordable Care Act, so it's fully covered and available at no cost through most insurance plans, including Medicare Part B.

Nurse's Advice

"Surprising to many, it can actually take up to two weeks for the flu vaccine to build immunity," explained Angela Patterson, Chief Nurse Practitioner Officer at MinuteClinic. "Because of this, CVS Pharmacy recommends patients get their flu shot as soon as the vaccine becomes available to ensure patients are the most

protected before flu season peaks. Furthermore, influenza strains tend to change each year, so it's very important to get vaccinated annually to make sure you are protected."

What Else You Can Do

Here are four suggestions:

1. Stay home if you're sick. The survey found that two out of three respondents would still go to work if they had flulike symptoms.

In fact, flulike symptoms haven't stopped some people from going out in public in general:

28 percent have gone to the supermarket

12 percent have picked up a child from school or day care

- 10 percent have taken public transportation.
- 2. Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based cleansing gel.
- 3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- 4. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

Learn More

Consumers can visit www.MinuteClinic.com for further information and to find a nearby pharmacy or clinic. Customers get a \$5 off \$25 coupon when they get the shot at CVS Pharmacy or MinuteClinic.

[1] Survey was conducted in the United States by The Harris Poll on July 12-16, 2018, among 2,020 adults ages 18 and older.

[2] U.S. adults surveyed who did not get a flushot last year.

Taste Of Hispanic Heritage



(NAPSI)—National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to acknowledge the history, culture and contributions of the people of Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain. One of the best ways to celebrate, many say, is with food.

Making that easy is one restaurant chain that's having a year-round love affair with Latin and Hispanic cuisine. Long known for its authentic Tex-Mex roots, Church's Chicken®/Texas Chicken® has spent years championing the commemorative period—which runs from September15 to October 15th—on a global stage.

The first Hispanic influence on the company's menu was the jalapeño pepper—the very first side item ever offered at the restaurant chain. The peppers were added to the menu due to a San Antonio tradition of squeezing their juice over various foods to give them a south-of-the-border style "kick" of heat and spice.

The restaurant's sister brand, Texas Chicken, features the Mexicana Burger on

menus worldwide. This tasty chicken burger is a fiesta of tastes and textures, with a juicy hand-battered chicken breast fillet that's topped "taco style" with cheese, fresh lettuce, tomato, spicy mayo, crunchy tortilla chips and chopped onions.

Most Reviewed Software



(NAPSI)—Getting the right software for your company doesn't have to be hard if you heed the recent research.

For instance, a major online resource for business software buyers has found that reviews are vital to software vendors seeking growth in the small and midsize business market. The research was done by Capterra, the market leader for most verified reviews available to software purchasing decision makers. It revealed that marketing-related software saw a 591 percent increase in published reviews, and network security software experienced a 463 percent increase—validating that marketing tools and security platforms are key priorities for small-business growth.

"Our research shows that buyers count on reviews to help them make informed Continued page 11



Software

Continued from page 10

purchasing decisions. At Capterra we strive to help buyers make the best decision possible and reaching 500,000 verified reviews on Capterra.com shows our commitment to providing software buyers with a platform they can trust," said Anthony Bradley, Group Vice President of Research. "We saw a 50 percent increase in reviews published on the site since 2017, and more reviews were published in the first half of 2018 than in the eight years between 2008 and 2016. This validates that people now both contribute to and rely on user reviews as resources to help each other make better purchasing decisions," he added.

The top-10 high-growth, trending software categories are:

- Graphic Design (591 percent growth)
- Presentation (533 percent growth)
- Network Security (463 percent growth)

- Web Conferencing (410 percent growth)
- Meeting Platforms (390 percent growth)
- Issue Tracking (298 percent growth)
- IT Service (295 percent growth)
- IT Service Management (295 percent growth)
- Website Builders (291 percent growth)
- Objectives and Key Results (290 percent growth)
- The top-10 review categories are:
- Collaboration
- Project Management
- Task Management
- Customer Relationship Management
- Productivity
- File Sharing
- Billing and Invoicing
- Time Tracking
- Lead Management
- Accounting.
- "Buying and selling trends are constantly changing. Vendors also count on reviews to gain the trust of potential customers and stand out from the competition," explained

Bradley. Customer opinions make the software capabilities "real" for in-market buyers. In fact, they bond with the product through other reviewers' experiences. The study identified six key takeaways on the vendor value of software user reviews and how to use them in the sales process:

- Unbiased reviews help gain the trust of potential customers: Because buyers recognize inherent bias from product sales teams, they actively seek unbiased sourcesto balance their software analysis. In-market buyers believe that finding the right company is just as critical as finding the right software. Reputation and sustained delivery of quality products and services matter.
- Third-party sites are considered more credible than a business's own site: Customers believe that reviews on most third-party sites—meaning, beware of fake reviews sites—are more credible than reviews showcased on a software vendor's site. Software buyers view third-party sites as more independent with nothing to gain

Bradley. Customer opinions make the from cherry-picking positive reviews over software capabilities "real" for in-market reviews with negative feedback or low buyers. In fact, they bond with the product ratings.

- Detailed information about reviewers is necessary to confirm their trustworthiness: Descriptive information provided along the purchasing decision journey is another way to establish credibility in reviews. It doesn't mean requesting names or other personal information from reviewers, but it does mean asking for detailed information concerning a reviewer's experience with the product. The more detail, the better.
- Showcase reviews that discuss specific problems in specific industries: Specific details help prospects identify whether a product works for people like them and businesses like theirs. Buyers tend to gravitate toward reviewers within their industry who experience the same issues and pain points. They must illustrate how it works and which problems it solves, beyond whether it works well or not.
- Focus on showcasing recent reviews: Three out of four customers think reviews are outdated if older than three months. Reviews should reflect changes and updates, so make regular reviews acquisition a top priority.
- Having all positive reviews hurts more than it helps: Software buyers are actively looking for trustworthiness signals. If they find only positive reviews, it seems to be too good to be true and skepticism ensues. The most effective reviews are balanced and cultivated by honest feedback complete with pros and cons.
- "Reviews are no longer a luxury or a niceto-have add-on to brand and product marketing; they're a competitive necessity," said Bradley. The good news is that it's not too late to get into the reviews game, and businesses can leverage platforms such as Capterra as an outlet for unbiased, trustworthy feedback to empower its users and prospects.







Page 12, Seniors Voice/Downtown - October 2018



32. Superlatively

34. Bullfighting

36. Spenser subjects

39. Scorsese subject

46. Saudi provincial

42. Finicky one,

45. Like leaves

47. Stiff collars

49. One-channel

51. Writing names

54. Flighty fellow

59. Crows' homes

60. Flirtatious glance

50. English

publication

57. Entangle

58. Balloon car

53. Drug-stds.

peppy

maneuver

35. Brace

maybe

leader

43. Period

Across

1. Keen & Co., e.g.

8. Rose

15. Important guest

16. Like Nadia

Comaneci

17. They may be taken seriously

19. "Love Story" composer

20. Coup victim of '67

21. Vanderbilt acquisitions: Abbr.

22. Env. contents

24. Vincent successor

25. Giovanni Dandolo

was one

26. Societal breakdown

28. "Arabian Nights"

menace

29. Caged tiger,

perhaps

30. Lowers

1. Something to get

2. Steve Martin film of

3. Monopolistic

4. NT book

5. Start of a Cockney toast

6. Mythical twin

7. Quidditch players

8. Some brothers

9. Name of two

Chinese dynasties

10. Playground retort

11. E. Lansing school

12. Didn't let sleeping dogs lie

13. Surfaces

14. Ambrosia, for one

18. Saint- (French

port)

23. Mudslinging pol

25. Pool-table spot, perhaps

27. Big name in Mideast history

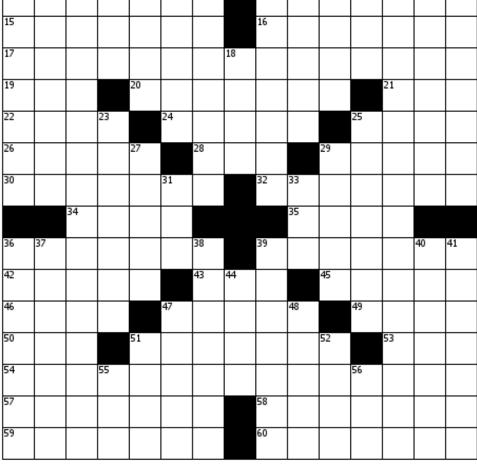
29. Groom oneself

31. Eleanor Roosevelt, Roosevelt

33. One of the majors

36. Be healthy

37. "It's Too Late



Now" autobiographer 38. Some Vonnegut novels

39. Action on the set

40. Not slack

41. Home addition

44. Fall guy

47. "École" attendee 48. "Who's Afraid of

Virginia Woolf?" actor

51. Having the means 52. Vittorio De

55. Sonny Rollins style 56. Breakfast partner

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Florida Fish and Wildlife

FROM GOVERNOR'S SCOTT'S **DESK**

FWC and DEP have provided an additional nearly \$2.2 million to Mote Marine Laboratory for the initiation of its field testing of a specialized clay focused on quelling red tide and expansion of its Ozone Treatment System which takes water containing the algae that causes red tide and filters it, returning clean water back to areas impacted by this naturally-occurring algae.

Governor Scott sent a letter to FWC urging the Commission to take the following action on red tide:

Create the Florida Center for Red Tide Research, a new resource for local communities impacted by red tide;

Re-establish the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force; and

Request an increase of funding for red tide research during the upcoming 2019 Florida Legislative Session.

At Governor Scott's direction, FWC has partnered with world-renowned experts and scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Mote Marine

and DEP to focus on using a form of specialized clay to quell the effects of red tide. See the announcement https://www.flgov.com/2018/09/19/govscott-fwc-launches-innovative-partnershipwith-world-renowned-scientists-tocombat-red-tide/

FWC is providing \$1.2 million to enhance research and production of redfish at the FWC Stock Enhancement Research Facility at Port Manatee. Learn more at https://www.flgov.com/2018/09/17/govscott-additional-1-2-million-for-redfishhatchery-will-help-mitigate-impacts-fromred-tide/.

\$100,000 in additional funding to Mote Marine Laboratory to support efforts to rescue distressed marine animals, such as dolphins, sea turtles and manatees.

Continuation of enhanced water monitoring and testing by DEP and FWC to give scientists the best possible data to work

At Governor Scott's direction, FWC has mobilized all available resources to mitigate naturally occurring red tide, and Executive Director Eric Sutton has waived rules through an executive order to expedite the

applicable bag, size, or possession limits or of season or area closures – from shoreline, inshore or nearshore areas in the following counties: Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough and Pinellas.

FWC law enforcement officers have been actively helping with animal rescue and red tide reconnaissance work.

Additional biologists and scientist are available to support local government's response to red tide and protect wildlife.

FWC is performing increased aerial surveys of the red tide bloom.

FWC is operating the toll-free fish kill hotline. To report fish kills, contact the FWC DEP and the FWC have provided Fish Kill Hotline at 800-636-0511 or **submit a report online**. Reports from this hotline help FWC researchers track and better understand the impact of red tide in Florida.

> FWC remains available to local agencies and partners in affected areas, including area business and tourism groups in Southwest Florida. Any local agency or group that has any questions or concerns can contact Susan Neel from the FWC at 850-528-1755.

FWC continues to partner with the Florida Department of Health (DOH) to advise residents and visitors of any potential health impacts. Residents and visitors can contact DOH's aquatic toxin experts at 850-245-4250 or contact their local health department for any concern about health safety.

FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory work together to monitor Karenia brevis. This cooperative effort is designed to help mitigate the adverse impacts of red tide. This joint research program that includes red tide monitoring, research and public outreach and education has resulted in better tools and ongoing monitoring for red tides along the Gulf Coast.

In partnership with FWC, the Collaboration for Prediction of Red Tides (CPR) at the University of South Florida offers a new Harmful Algal Bloom tracking

Laboratory, the University of South Florida removal of dead fish - regardless of tool that generates a 3.5-day forecast of the bloom trajectories.

To protect public health, FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's Harmful Algal Bloom group closely monitors the status of Karenia brevis on Florida's coasts, providing technical support to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the agency that regulates approved shellfish harvesting areas.

Since 2000, FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute established a Red Tide Offshore Monitoring Program, which is a volunteer program for citizens to help collect water samples from routine collection points and sites reported for suspected harmful algal blooms. The timely sampling by volunteers allows researchers to provide an early warning of offshore algal blooms and investigate reported events as they occur. The Program needs volunteers to collect samples from all coastal Florida counties. To view more information visit, Red Tide Offshore Monitoring Program or use the Volunteer SignUp Form.

Red Tide and **Blue Algae**

FROM GOVERNOR'S SCOTT'S DESK (Continued)

DEP has provided \$13 million in funding to support efforts to battle impacts of red tide and blue-green algae in the following counties:

- More than \$1.3 million for Pinellas County:
- \$750,000 for Manatee County;
- Nearly \$350,000 for Charlotte County;
- More than \$190,000 for Collier County;
- Nearly \$1.5 million for Sarasota County;
- A total of \$3.9 million for Lee County; and
- **\$700,000** for Martin County.

DEP continues to perform enhanced water testing, beach cleanup and public outreach, as well as the deployment of additional biologists to assist communities dealing with naturally occurring red tide.







Health & Safety

FROM GOVERNOR'S SCOTT'S DESK

Florida's County Health Departments have taken the following actions:

- DOH-Lee has posted and is maintaining red tide signs at more than 180 beach access points along the Lee County coastline. The red tide signs provide details on respiratory issues, health precautions, and resources for FWC, Mote Marine Laboratory and current beach conditions. Environmental staff and County Health Department (CHD) leadership are in contact with city and county leadership, as well as local partners, in order to coordinate efforts and messaging. A press release detailing the effects of red tide and resources for mediation was sent out to local media partners. Additional resources, like website materials, social media posts, etc., have been shared with local partners for their use and distribution to their partners. More substantial red tide signs were purchased in August and staff replaced the damaged/missing signs along the beach access points, as well as added additional signs at popular fishing sites and boat ramps. More than 300 total signs have been posted in Lee County.
- DOH-Manatee has hosted a discussion with community partners to understand current roles and share resources. The CHD has a distribution list setup to share information quickly with key personnel. They are also helping to coordinate discussions to help our partners meet on a periodic basis.
- · DOH-Sarasota leadership and environmental staff have been in contact with city and county government and Visit Sarasota in order to coordinate

- messaging and provide template signage, website links, and creative materials. The CHD has also worked with the county in order to post signs at every beach, provided rack cards to the county and Mote for distribution.
- DOH-Charlotte has posted signage along the beaches to advise visitors and tourists about the water conditions. The CHD has performed outreach to their community partners, as well as local government, to share informational resources, creative materials and public health messaging. They also are coordinating efforts and assisting their sister agencies, as needed.
- DOH-Pinellas is currently working with the county government to update a red tide webpage that provides public health and safety information. Environmental staff are in constant communication with central office subject matter experts to discuss outreach and other best practices, should they be needed.
- DOH-Hillsborough is working with their community and county officials to finalize a joint information system, and continues to monitor the situation.

Business/Industry

FROM GOVERNOR'S SCOTT'S DESK

At the direction of Governor Scott, VISIT FLORIDA began developing a marketing campaign to assist Southwest Florida communities that will start following this year's red tide blooms.

- VISIT FLORIDA created a \$500,000 Tourism Recovery Grant Program for Red Tide to assist local tourism development boards in counties affected by the naturally-occurring red tide.
- VISIT FLORIDA launched a Red Tide Recovery Marketing Program offering six months complimentary VISIT FLORIDA marketing partnership, which includes an

enhanced web listing on families' only option within a 30-minute drive VISITFLORIDA.com, public relations and social media resources and the opportunity to have a presence in the official Florida Welcome Centers with brochure distribution, lobby booth displays and showcase participation.

- The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has activated the Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to provide short-term, interest free loans to affected businesses.
- DEO continues to encourage impacted businesses to submit a business damage assessment survey at http://www.FloridaDisaster.biz. Surveys help DEO and their partners determine additional resources that may be made available to help the business community recover.
- Following requests by Governor Rick Scott, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) issued a disaster declaration on red tide.

Education Deserts

(NAPSI)—The U.S. Department of Education reports that nearly 57 million children will go to shool in America this year. Some of them live in what are known as "education deserts," but fortunately, there are

Mapping School Deserts

A new study used geospatial analysis software to map families' drive times to schools, whether public, magnet, charter or voucher-accepting private schools. It discovered three kinds of deserts:

In A-rated school deserts, no A-rated schools of any kind are within a 30-minute drive for families in a given area;

In choice deserts, no options such as charter, magnet or voucher-participating schools exist within a 30-minute drive for families, other than the zoned traditional public school;

In educational opportunity zone deserts,

radius is a D- or F-rated traditional public school.

The study also found that even in places considered to be choice-rich when it comes to education, such as the state of Indiana, access to quality schools is not universal.

The report on Indiana's Schooling Deserts found that more than 100,000 families choose a school for their children other than the one that was residentially assigned.

Maps produced for the report show where families do not have options when it comes to highly rated or nontraditional schooling options and where policymakers and education entrepreneurs might find opportunity to support or grow more high-quality options.

The Good News

Nine out of 10 Hoosier families are a 15minute drive or less from an A-rated K-8 school of any type (public, private or charter) and a 21minute drive from an A-rated high school of any type. All Indiana students are within 45 minutes of an A-rated school of any type.

The Bad News

Nevertheless, there are 24,810 K-8 students who live in a choice desert, meaning they are 30 minutes or more away from a K-8 other than the zoned public school. That number jumps significantly for high schoolers—45,072 students live in a high school choice desert.

Certain parts of the state are struggling to provide quality regardless of school type. About 7.000 K-8 students and about 400 high school students attend the D- or F-rated schools, according to the map.

Who Can Help

The study was conducted on behalf of EdChoice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing full and unencumbered educational choice as the best pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. It believes that families, not bureaucrats, are best equipped to make K-12 schooling decisions for their children and works to educate diverse audiences, train advocates and engage policymakers on the benefits of high-quality school choice programs.



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