



Lady Lake Chamber Networking Luncheon was a great success. Forty five business people attending, door prizes were abundant. Many people bring door prizes and some even win door prizes. This

month the luncheon was held at the Longhorn Steakhouse at 590 US 441 Lady Lake FL

See more photos on pages 8 & 9.

## Was It JUST a Dream?

By TomL

I Had a Dream! Not I have a dream! I had a dream about what is going on in the world and our country.

Remember the song "Just a Dream / Just a dream. All our Plans and all our Schemes?????"

The way the dream started was right after the Trump verdict I could not sleep. I sat down in my recliner that night with Fox News on slept and woke up every once in a while and it seemed the news was part of my dream. Scholars and legal analyst came from everywhere saying the trial was not real, maybe it was just a dream. Mine was a dream! So what comes next? Do they finish crucifying him, or do they want to drag him through the streets of New York some more. Do they want to lock him away out of hearing and out of sight. I think the cause would just keep growing!

Well that happened to me. Once up on a time there was a man who loved his Country and as he was serving his cause and helping his country, he realized many were trying to use politics to benefit themselves and attack him. Then he realized he needed to dedicate himself to the cause not the benefit. The cause was to make all men and women equal under the law. Let's make something clear men are

men and women are women and some are trying to force themselves into the opposite sex category, they want to be winners of tournaments and compete in life where they could win. Others are the Gay Rights and that's their life to live. As my dream continues I remember waking up from time to time and hearing Fox News on TV and then the Dream continues... Back in the days there were Kings and they had all the power the King not wanting the people thinking the person fighting for justice was more popular than him so started to undermine him, but It did not work because he had a cause. Remember in Biblical times? They drug him thru the streets of New York a place he was born. raised and helped build to crucify him in the eyes of his followers. Remember this is "Just a dream" The King found him guilty of charges that did not ever exist. So they created them.

His followers have appealed to his supreme rulers, Our Supreme Court and they stayed silent. Many scholars from everywhere say the ruling was illegal but the Supreme Court stays silent. In a very short time his followers grew to a tremendous following for this cause, raise million's of followers for what the King did to him, he was "Martered!" the king made up what was against him and making the



Mac & Cheese Award: "Mayor's Choice" Treva Roberts, Mayor Pro Tem (right) with Winner – Evelyn, Stetler Travel

cause out of reach of the people. JUSTICE is a Cause??? Politics is a job with power.

"Believe in the Constitution of the United States" The followers are following the man and showing their support but half of it is the cause that he stands for. He is in the way of the King in control so let's crucify him. I recently heard someone say "He is after you not me but I'm standing in his way". So what do you do? I will fight for a honest election. Here you have to make a decision between who is good and who is evil. "You stand with the truth or some day die as a liar!". Remember this was "Just a dream!" Can I be prosecuted for a dream? In New York probably. Everyone should see the video 2,000 mules. Then you would understand what they have done.

I say just turn him loose and let the street fight begin. When this man said he was going to drain the swamp it made a lot of

people nervous after all that scares people, they are just like us people the IRS / DOJ / FBI / ETC ETC. But we have to remember the these people working at a job and when their leaders tell them to jump they jump. I am a very old man and I think I have pick up some wisdom along the way of life. After all I learn that the elderly had a lot of wisdom to share but most are silent just like the Supreme Court. I know they have to move slow and precise but remember. "When it's to late.... It's to late!" Wake up from my dream and make thing better again!

IT'S "Just a Dream? All our plans and all our schemes!"

Hopefully it's not The End of my dream! I woke up and heard Gutfeld on Fox News say there should be a Wanted Poster with Trumps picture on it that says WANTED as President by the American people.

REMEMBER It was Just a dream! What say you. tomIpublishing.com





"The Big Cheese": United Southern Bank (Lady Lake Branch) Winner of The Best Decorated Booth



"Peoples Choice": Carrabba's Italian Grill of Lady Lake



"Judges Choice": Mission BBQ of Lady Lake

# Homicide Investigation

## Lady Lake Police Department seeks leads in unsolved homicide investigation

LADY LAKE - The Lady Lake Police Department is seeking leads in the murder of 20-year-old Bryson Leverette. The department recently assigned a new detective with a fresh perspective hoping to solve this nearly one-year-old homicide case.

Leverette was one of two victims shot at 104 Caroline Ave. on June 30, 2023. Lady Lake Police responded within minutes and performed life-saving measures, however Leverette was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.

The initial investigation revealed that both victims were leaving the home in the Skyline Hills area of Lady Lake at around 12:44 a.m. when they were attacked by a group of armed suspects using several different firearms. The suspects fled the area in unknown vehicles and the ensuing investigation did not produce any arrests.

Since his death, Leverette's girlfriend gave birth to their son, and his mother continues to grieve his violent unsolved death.

In May, Leverette's homicide was re-assigned to Lady Lake Police Det. James Dunagan, who recently joined the department with more than 20 years of law enforcement experience.

"I am committed to working toward a resolution for Bryson's family. They deserve answers," said Det. Dunagan. "We ask that anyone with information come forward to help us bring justice in this case."

Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Dunagan at 352-751-1565, email [jdunagan@ladylake.org](mailto:jdunagan@ladylake.org), or contact CRIMELINE at 1-800-423-TIPS (8477).

# Florida Attorney General Moody

Fraudsters are becoming more sophisticated and it's important our citizens know how to protect themselves.

I encourage Floridians to visit [MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance](https://MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance) to view our free Scams at a Glance resources about common and emerging scams.

From imposter scams and tech support scams to various utility schemes, these downloadable brochures provide tips to avoid falling victim to fraud and where to report it.

By staying informed and well-equipped against suspicious activity, you can avoid scams, hold onto your hard-earned money and help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

TomLPublishing.com

Read online

24/7



Florida State Senate

# DENNIS K. BAXLEY



From the Desk of  
Senator Dennis  
Baxley----

Good morning  
friends-

With the elections just around the corner, I wanted to share with you the constitutional amendments that will be on the ballot for the General Election on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Amendment One – Partisan Election of Members of District School Board – HJR 31 passed by the Legislature 2024...This will require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election.

Amendment Two – Right to Fish and Hunt – CS/HJR 1157 passed by the Legislature 2024...Preserving the forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibility managing and controlling fish and wildlife.

Amendment Three – Adult Personal Use of Marijuana – Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use.

Amendment Four – Limit Government

Interference with Abortion – No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's Constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Amendment Five – Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions – Requires an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent resident of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.

Amendment Six – Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement – Repeals the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

It's not too early with the primary coming up on August 20, 2024, to make sure your voting registration is in order and you know where your voting precinct is located.

Onward & Upward



## The Big Bang!

**Lady Lake hosts spectacular fireworks show: The Big Bang!**

Join us for The Big Bang!, the Town of Lady Lake's premier Independence Day celebration, set to light up the sky at the Guava Street Athletic Complex on Saturday, June 29. This unforgettable event will feature family-friendly fun and activities beginning at 6 p.m., culminating in one of the largest fireworks shows in the area at 9:15 p.m., generously sponsored by The Benchmark Group, The Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club, and American Legion Post 347.

Special event features include:

**Live Music:** Dance the night away with the Groove Slayers band, nominated the best cover band in Central Florida by Orlando Weekly

**Watermelon Eating Contest:** Deliciously fun for kids and adults, sponsored by Jeannette McIntosh Realtor

**Arts and Crafts Table:** Sponsored by The Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club



**Food Trucks and Vendors:** Enjoy a wide variety of delicious food and dessert options

**VIP Experience:** Enhance the celebration in the comfort of a VIP tent, available for \$50 each. These tents offer shade and prime viewing of the stage and fireworks show. To reserve a VIP tent, contact Amy Alicea at [events@ladylake.org](mailto:events@ladylake.org).

**Kids' Zone:** Enjoy unlimited access to the Kids' Zone foam party, mechanical bull, bounce houses and dunk tank for \$8 (cash only). Single tickets for the mechanical bull or dunk tank are \$3 each for both children and adults!

"We are thrilled to bring everyone together for an evening of fun, food, and fireworks," said Lady Lake Events Coordinator Amy Alicea. "The Big Bang! promises to be one of Lady Lake's biggest and most exciting events of the year and we look forward to celebrating with our community."

Guests are invited to bring chairs and blankets to enjoy the festivities. Please note that pets, coolers, and alcohol are not permitted.

Parking is available around the Guava Street Athletic Complex. Overflow parking will be at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex with free shuttle service to and from the event between 6 and 10:30 p.m., courtesy of Lamers.



### Lady Lake Library Hosts School Supplies for Fines in July

LADY LAKE – For the second year, the Lady Lake Library is hosting its annual "School Supplies for Fines" drive to support area children. This program is a great way for patrons to pay off fines while giving back to the community. The library will waive overdue material fees in exchange for donations of school supplies.

Donations can include No. 2 pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons and backpacks. Last year, the Lady Lake Library donated over 100 pounds of school supplies to The Villages Elementary of

Lady Lake. In exchange for donations from the community, nearly \$500 in library fines were forgiven. "Last year, The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake greatly appreciated the donations they received," said Aly Herman, Library Director. "It's truly a wonderful way to give back to our community while also providing an added benefit to library patrons."

Donations will be accepted during regular business hours at the Lady Lake Library, located at 225 W. Guava Street, from July 1-31. For more information, visit [www.ladylakefl.gov](http://www.ladylakefl.gov) or [facebook.com/ladylakelibrary225](https://facebook.com/ladylakelibrary225).



The Lady Lake Library participated in the Lake County Library System's annual Food for Fines initiative in May, which forgives \$1 of overdue fees for every food item donated.

The Library collected over 1,000 items for its local food bank, the Lady Lake Christian Food Pantry, which feeds 350 families each month. Started in 1998, the Food Pantry is an off-campus ministry of

North Lake Presbyterian Church that provides supplemental groceries for families in need in Lady Lake, The Villages, Summerfield and Weirsdale.

Front, left to right: Lady Lake Library Director Aly Herman, Pantry Director Carrol Neal and Library Youth Services Assistant Kourtney Fehr

Back, left to right: Pantry volunteers Jaime Rotger and Steve Krick



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

PUBLISHER’S NOTES



Think about what your going to do on election day. You will get all kinds of pressure to vote for a curtain person. Ask yourself how did he preform while he was in office. Was your life better for it?

What will happen if Trump wins? Oil drilling will increase right away. the Auto Industry will bounce back, the coal industry will open back up, people will actually have jobs they can be proud of. We will have new refinery's. We will close the border the same day. We will make a decision about the immigrant's in this country. Most will go. The really bad ones will go to prison or go back to the prison they came out of.

If Biden wins? OH MY GOSH! More of the same. Social Security might disappear. Healthcare will suffer. Remember Socialist don't believe the elderly should be alive. The very young and the very old is none productive. The immigrant's are over running our country now I can't imagine what it will be like in five months or next

year. Hunter will go back to his old tricks.

On the debate stage Biden is going to say I am debating Trump is a convicted Felon and Trump will say I'm debating someone that is to old and to senile to prosecute. Then there will be chaos.

Trump is coming and the working people are coming with him. I mean the black, whites, Espanic's, all the people Biden has lied too all these years. There will be a few hard decisions to make and some fighting but the patriots of America will win! They won't have to die on a foreign beach head.

existing law or Executive order.

Regardless it's a bunch of wasteful spending of our Government. The Wireless Industry was lobbying the House to approve or appropriate \$7B for 2024 to provide Tablets to Entitlement Families. It didn't get approved.

Read your doctor report asking “Is a Drug with 32 side effects right for you?”

I have exceeded the limits of my doctors prescription drugs.

Commander, the President Biden Family dog bit just Secret service personnel over 20 times. The white house staff who knows how many times. Many White House service personnel have adjustd their schedule to avoid the dog.

Do you see all the immigrants coming across the border with cell phones in their hands???

It's a Federal Program that is legal for them to use as a solution for them to receive information that pertains to Status in US, Healthcare, housing, EBT Entitlement, notification and information. The funding is tucked away in bill, appropriated by some

Going across our nation are movements about hating our country. Get the hell out of our country. You did not make it what it is our ancestors did. You think it's cool to be a part of a movement. Well I have a movement every morning if I'm lucky. Some times it's a great task.

Send us a letter to the editor. PO Box 1698 Dunnellon Florida or email me and put your phone number at the end of the letter so I can verify you sent it. Last name will not be used.

**PUBLISHER of TOML, Tom Loury... I don't text!**

I email back and forth to Government officials, clients and personal friends. **All ads should be in PDF format!** JPEG has a tendency to get weak when you enlarge or reduce them. If you send a PDF ad the fonts are embedded in the ad and will not change. Photos must be in focus and clear. No guarantee that they will run. We will try. TomL

### Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for August*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**Noon, July 19th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, July 24th**

### Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

**Products of TomL Publishing, LLC**

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

**Publisher: Tom Loury**

**Phone: 352-804-1223 | Email: tloury@att.net**

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**PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
THE WOUNDED  
WARRIORS!**

## God Bless our Troops

## Support Our Veterans

## We Endorse The Constitution

### Update on Reverse Mortgages

**Tuesday, July 9, 12:30pm**

The Standard Coffee Lounge, 1552 Bella Cruz, The Villages

**Register: 352-462-0636 or [www.RMexplained.com](http://www.RMexplained.com)**

**Wednesday, July 17, 12:30pm**

Bob Evans, 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages

**Safely Apply Home Equity to Your Financial Security**

Lunch provided with Reservation

**Presented by:**  
Dan Kapellen  
NMLS 2302495  
Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist  
Resident of The Villages



## FAIRtax



One of the loudest complaints against the FAIRtax is that it will abolish the corporate income tax. According to the D.C. elites, it seems unconscionable that billion of dollars of corporate profits would go completely untaxed. They believe that the mega-rich corporations should be obligated to "pay their fair share". An Op-Ed in the Wall Street Journal by Phil Gramm and Mike Salon had some interesting points regarding corporate taxes:

\* Americans don't understand that corporations do not pay taxes and that corporate entities are owned by people - you and me.

\* Corporate taxes are just like any other

cost of doing business and when costs go up, the increase is passed onto different people in different ways - as higher prices to consumers, as lower wages to employees and/or as lower dividends to investors.

\* If you consume, you pay the corporate tax. If you consume and work for the corporation, you pay the corporate tax twice. If you consume, work and invest your retirement funds in corporate equities, the corporate tax hits you three times.

\* A recent Treasury study confirms that 92.6 million families, 49.5% of all American families, pay more corporate taxes hidden in the price of the things they buy than they do in individual income taxes.

\* Even if the D.C. elites like to portray big corporations as being run by greedy robber barons, if you pull back that curtain, it isn't a wizard or robber barons you will see. You

will see yourself as a consumer, worker and pensioner. We must not forget that the corporate tax is a tax on everything you buy, a tax on your wages and a tax on your retirement nest eggs.

What are some of the conclusions?

\* To hide the true cost of the income/payroll tax system and increased regulation from the American people and to distract attention from the government's numerous failures by creating tension between the American people over "fairness".

\* To divert from government failures by blaming greedy corporations and individuals for not paying as they should and trying to convince people that raising corporate taxes would reduce our tax burden.

There is an elegant solution to the corporate tax problem - the FAIRtax.

Please join with me to promote and encourage the adoption of the FAIRtax. For more information please go to FAIRtax.org.

**Want to Kill the Death Tax?**

**Only the FAIRtax can Pull the Trigger!**

Want to learn more?

Go to: [FLfairtax.org](http://FLfairtax.org) or Call 352-804-0007

**FAIRtax**  
FL FAIRtax EDUCATIONAL AREA

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## Lake County Detention Center

### Public Booking Log

See the frequently updated public booking log of those recently charged in Lake County. Go to:

<http://tomlpublishing.com/category/villages-news/lady-lake-police-dept/>

Or go to [Tomlpublishing.com](http://Tomlpublishing.com) and click on **Lake County Sheriff** on right side under "Contributing Editors".



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**Adult****JULY****Lady Lake Library**

Hours:

Monday: 9am-7pm  
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm  
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
 4th of July: CLOSED

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 <b>Fascinating Stories From our National Parks</b> @ 2-3pm	3	4 	5
8 <b>Meet the Author</b> Tamara Dalton Lobby @11-2pm	9 <b>Book Discussion Group</b> @ 2-4pm	10 <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	11	12 <b>BestBuy iPhone</b> @ 9:30am
15 <b>Board Games Meetup!</b> @2-4pm sign up required	16	17 <b>Authors Round Table</b> @ 2-4pm	18	19
22 <b>Friends of the Library Meeting</b> Room 152 @ 10am	23 <b>Bingo!</b> @2-3:30pm sign up required	24 <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	25 <b>Let's Talk Books</b> @ 2pm	26 <b>BestBuy MAC</b> @ 9:30am <b>Movies at the Library!</b> Madame Web (PG) @ 2 pm
29 	30 <b>Crochet and Knitting Hangout</b> @ 2-3:30pm sign up required	31 	<b>Adult Summer Reading Program!</b> Grab a book review form at the front circulation desk and complete it for a chance to win a android tablet! Can complete up to 5 book reviews. Ages 18 and up can participate.	

**Youth****JULY****Lady Lake Library**

Hours:

Monday: 9am-7pm  
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm  
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
 4th of July: CLOSED

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <b>Craft Kits Available!</b> While supplies last.	2 <b>Tiny Tots</b> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	3 <b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	4 	5 <b>Baby Storytime</b> @10:30am <b>Video Games</b> @3:30-4:30pm
8 <b>Craft Kits Available!</b> While supplies last.	9 <b>Tiny Tots</b> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	10 <b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	11 <b>Gatorland</b> @ 10:30am	12 <b>Lego Masters</b> @ 3:30-4:30pm
15 <b>Craft Kits Available!</b> While supplies last.	16 <b>Tiny Tots</b> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	17 <b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	18 <b>Scott Humston Kid's Show</b> @ 10:30am	19 <b>Baby Storytime</b> @10:30am <b>Video Games</b> @3:30-4:30pm
22 <b>Craft Kits Available!</b> While supplies last.	23 <b>Tiny Tots</b> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	24 <b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	25 	26 <b>Lego Masters</b> @ 3:30-4:30pm <b>Movies at the Library!</b> Madame Web (PG-13) @ 2 pm upstairs
29 <b>Craft Kits Available!</b> While supplies last.	30 <b>Tiny Tots</b> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	31 <b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Join Us In Our Monthly Scavenger Hunt!</b> Follow the clues and win a cool prize!	



# Lake County Events

JUL3

**Freedom on the Waterfront**

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM Elizabeth Evans Park in Mount Dora

Enjoy live music from Inner Circle and All-4-One, delicious food trucks, family-friendly activities, and a spectacular fireworks finale.

JUL4

**Star Spangled Spectacular**

4:00 PM - 9:30 PM Ski Beach Park in Leesburg

Join the City of Leesburg, Thursday, 4th of July for a Spectacular Event! 4pm at Ski Beach Park. Featuring carnival rides, a water ski show, and more.

JUL5

**Exploration Hike**

8:00AM - 9:30AM Ferndale Preserve in Montverde7/58/29/610/4 PLUS MORE

Join staff to explore the habitats and species of Ferndale Preserve.

JUL6

**CleanUp Eustis**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Ferran Park Bandshell in Eustis

CleanUp Eustis is having our next CleanUp group event, and we need YOUR help! Grab your community groups and neighbors and help for an hour or two!

JUL6

**Stroll Along the Bluff**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Sabal Bluff Preserve in Leesburg

Join staff on a leisurely stroll along the bluff. No facilities. Limited to 15 participants. Reservations required.

JUL6

**Laugh Freely Clean Comedy Show Experience**

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM PLAZA THEATRE EUSTIS in Eustis

Join us for an unforgettable night Saturday July at the beautiful Plaza Theatre Eustis for the Laugh Freely Clean Comedy Show Experience.

JUL7

**Exploration Hike**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM PEAR Park Gateway in Leesburg7/78/49/110/6 PLUS MORE

Join staff on an early evening hike to get some exercise while exploring nature at PEAR Park.

JUL10

**Water Wednesday**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hickory Point Recreational Park in Tavares

Using an enviroscape model, learn about the impact that our everyday lives has on the environment. Coloring activity pages will be provided.

JUL10

**Movie Night - I Heard the Bells**

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM First Presbyterian

Church Mount Dora in Mount Dora

Known as America's Poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow leads an idyllic life, until the day his world is shattered by tragedy.

JUL10

**Movie Night-I Heard the Bells**

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Dora in Mount Dora

Known as America's Poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow leads an idyllic life, until the day his world is shattered by tragedy. With a nation divided by the...

JUL11

**The Process of Building a DIY Website, Step by Step, Start to Finish**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ONLINE

A step-by-step guide to building your own website, steering clear of all the hassle and confusion.

JUL13

**Florida Military Collector Show**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora7/1310/12

The Florida Military Collector show is a one day event on Saturday.

JUL13

**Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey**

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Pasture Reserve in Groveland7/1311/16

Assist park staff with surveying the birds and butterflies that inhabit Lake County's conservation lands.

JUL15

**Succulents (UF/IFAS Master Gardener)**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Umatilla Public Library in Umatilla

Succulents require minimal care and come in many shapes and sizes. Learn more about these fascinating plants and how to add them to your plant collection.

JUL,16

**BINGO!**

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Umatilla Public Library in Umatilla

Back by popular demand. Play BINGO for small prizes. Perfect for senior citizens and all adults are welcome.

JUL17

**Reading with Naturalist**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hickory Point Recreational Park in Tavares

Come join the Naturalist for a reading of "A Drop Around the World

JUL19

**Summer Yard Sale**

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Renningers in Mount Dora7/197/207/21

Don't miss Renninger's Summer Yard Sale Clean out your unwanted items and sell them at this show Antique Center- Flea Market Free Admission

JUL19

**Downtown Clermont Wine Strolls**

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Downtown in Clermont7/198/179/2010/19 PLUS MORE

Explore historic Downtown Clermont while sampling 25 different wines at participating shops.



“Read all about it! Get free classifieds on Villages4sale.com!”

Real estate • Furniture • Cars  
Golf Carts • Garage Sales • RVs  
Pets • Electronics • Antiques  
Appliances • And more!

Visit Villages4sale.com today or call (352) 633-4623 for assistance.



# Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon

Lady Lake Chamber pages. If you are a business Networking Luncheon was a person that is interested in great success. Janet Fraley of finding out about the Lady lake the Chamber was the MC. Chamber call the ladies at the Table after table filled up until Chamber. 352-753-6029 Leslie there were almost fifty people. or Janet We have most of them on these





# Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



## Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?

- **Networking Opportunities**- Connect with business professionals
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- **Credibility**- Membership raises your business reputation
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**Contact us today to be added to our email list and stay connected to local businesses & events!**





# Weather A Storm or Power Outage



## Outdoor Power Equipment Helps Weather A Storm or Power Outage

(NAPSI)—Storms are growing more powerful and frequent, so having the right outdoor power equipment on hand and using it safely is important, says the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI). Home and business owners should think ahead before foul weather or a power outage occurs.

“Any season can be storm season now,” says Kris Kiser, President & CEO of OPEI, an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of outdoor power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. “It’s smart to invest in portable and

whole house generators and to have other outdoor power equipment on hand, such as water pumps and chainsaws to handle water damage or flooding and damage from fallen trees.”

He notes that outdoor power equipment is evolving all the time. “There’s a power source for every need including battery/electric, propane, solar and gasoline,” he says, noting each has different maintenance and care requirements. “It’s important that you know how to safely operate your individual equipment. And, remember, always read and follow the manufacturer’s manual and never disable safety features.”

To get ready for inclement weather, homeowners should follow these tips.

1. Before a storm identify which equipment could be needed. Chainsaws or pole saws can trim and clear limbs and shrubs that may break off or get damaged by high winds. String trimmers, pruners and chainsaws can remove other material from around your home that may make it vulnerable to wildfires.

A portable generator powers key

appliances and charges cell phones when utilities go down. A whole house generator can keep the lights and appliances on and running. Before an outage, plan where the generator will be set up (never in a home or garage, and always away from your home and any air intake) and determine how to secure it if needed. Buy and install a carbon monoxide detector. Get outdoor-rated extension cords for portable generators and consider adding an approved generator cover for rainy weather.

Water pumps can get water and muck out of basements and homes. Be sure you know how to operate the pump. Never pump substances that your equipment is not designed to cope with. Pay attention to avoid overheating and follow all safety precautions.

A utility type vehicle can transport people and supplies quickly in an emergency. Keep the vehicle stable and drive slowly. Do not turn mid-slope or while on a hill. Consider taking a UTV safety course.

2. Always read and follow the safety and usage recommendations provided by outdoor power equipment manufacturers. Never disable safety features. Practice how to operate equipment before you need it.


Follow all recommended safety measures on the product as well as in the owner’s manual.

3. Have the right fuel on hand and charge batteries ahead of bad weather. Most gasoline-powered equipment uses E10 or less fuel and most manufacturers recommend adding a fuel stabilizer. Fuel that is more than 30 days old may phase separate and cause running problems, so it’s important to purchase fuel just ahead of a storm. Store fuel safely and only use an approved fuel container. Only use manufacturer-recommended batteries.

4. Pay attention to your energy level and health. Preparation for bad weather, a power outage and storm cleanup can be taxing. Do not operate power equipment when tired or overly fatigued. Drink plenty of water and take regular breaks. Always use safety gear such as chaps, gloves, eye protection and hearing protection when operating equipment.



5. Always keep children and pets away from operating outdoor power equipment. Outdoor power equipment are not toys, and should never be used in a manner not intended by the manufacturer.

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# Horses, Horsepower and Hollers



**The Legendary Kentucky Adventure** (NAPSI)—Good news for travelers: Kentucky's Bowling Green, Corbin, Franklin, Georgetown, Harlan and Shelby Co. have joined forces to showcase the unique cultural, historical, and adventurous offerings of the Bluegrass State. Visitors seeking a weekend getaway, a four-day adventure, or an immersive weeklong journey can find curated itineraries ensuring ease of planning and an unforgettable experience.

**Let the adventure begin**  
From the fast-paced world of motorsports and horse racing to the serene beauty of Kentucky's hills and hollers, visitors can discover firsthand why Kentucky's tourism industry is experiencing a historic surge.

**Discover Kentucky: World-Class Attractions Await**  
World-class attractions, authentic experiences and captivating landscapes are all part of this ultimate Kentucky road trip.

Attraction highlights include the National Corvette Museum, Old Friends Retirement Farm, Bulleit Distilling, Cumberland Falls State Park, Portal 31: Animatronic Mine Tour, The Mint Gaming Hall and more.

**Kentucky's Culinary Delights: A Taste of Local Flavor**

From McKinley's Café in Shelbyville to Fava's in downtown Georgetown, visitors can enjoy the many flavors of this region at local restaurants. Travelers who want to dive into legendary culinary experiences can check out the birthplace of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Corbin and Dueling Grounds Distillery for their storied Linkumpinch Bourbon. Then they can stop at Chaney's Dairy Barn for some of the best homemade ice cream in the state.

**Unforgettable Adventures: Kentucky's Unique Experiences**

One-of-a-kind experiences including meeting retired racehorses, like the oldest living Kentucky Derby Winner, Silver

Charm, in Georgetown. Visit the Saddlebred Horse Capital and even get wet in the heart of Appalachia at the "Niagara of the South": Cumberland Falls in Corbin. Experience live horse racing in Franklin in September. Uncover America's sports car legacy at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green or learn about the rich history of miners at the Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Harlan.

**Where Every Visit Rewards**

Check out the awesome itineraries for Kentucky's Bowling Green, Corbin, Franklin, Georgetown, Harlan and Shelby Co. on [www.KyTripleH.com](http://www.KyTripleH.com) and as a bonus collect points to win a fantastic trip. Travelers can get their mobile exclusive passport and check-in at locations along their legendary Kentucky adventure to redeem points. The grand prize includes a one-night stay in each destination, along with passes to various attractions and restaurant gift cards.

**Explore What Makes Kentucky Legendary**

No matter which adventure you choose, Bowling Green, Corbin, Franklin, Georgetown, Harlan and Shelby Co. are delightful destinations where you can experience the heart and soul of Kentucky. To get your mobile passport, select your Kentucky adventure, and redeem points to be entered into a sweepstakes, visit [www.KyTripleH.com](http://www.KyTripleH.com).

## Blender Cherry Clafoutis

**Equipment**  
cherry pitter  
10 inch oven safe skillet

**Ingredients**  
2 tbs unsalted butter  
3 cups cherries, stemmed + pitted  
3 eggs  
1 cup milk of choice  
1/4 cup heavy cream (or kefir)  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup all purpose flour  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Garnish: powdered sugar



**Instructions**

Preheat oven 375°F. Melt the butter in a 10 inch oven proof skillet in your oven. Swirl the butter around to coat the sides. Place the cherries in the skillet in an even layer. Set the pan aside.

To a blender or food processor, add the eggs, milk, heavy cream, sugar, flour, salt, vanilla, almond extract and pulse until combined.

Pour the batter over the cherries. Optional: sprinkle some more sugar on top

Bake for 40-45 minutes or until set and golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean.

Allow to cool for 30 minutes prior to slicing.

**Nutrition**

Calories: 203kcal | Carbohydrates: 29g | Protein: 5g | Fat: 8g | Saturated Fat: 5g | Polyunsaturated Fat: 1g | Monounsaturated Fat: 2g | Trans Fat: 0.1g | Cholesterol: 81mg | Sodium: 110mg | Potassium: 201mg | Fiber: 1g | Sugar: 21g | Vitamin A: 368IU | Vitamin C: 4mg | Calcium: 61mg | Iron: 1mg

author: Stella © 2024 Hungry Happens  
<https://hungryhappens.net/blender-cherry-clafoutis/>



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FROM THE DESK OF

CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Rep. Cammack  
Applauds Wins For  
Florida Producers In  
2024 Farm Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Early this morning, the House Agriculture Committee completed its full committee markup of the 2024 Farm Bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. Congresswoman Cammack voted to pass the bill, joining her colleagues for a final bipartisan vote of 33 to 21.

Congresswoman Cammack spoke during the opening remarks for Members during the markup, lauding the bill's provisions that will support Florida's farmers, ranchers, and producers. View her full comments here.

Included in the bill are several wins for Florida's specialty crop producers, including the establishment of a specialty crop committee, funding for the Specialty Crop Research Initiative, more funding for specialty crop mechanization and automation research. Additionally, the bill ensures AGI (adjusted gross income) waivers for disasters and eliminates the AGI limitation for farmers who make more than 75 percent of their income from agriculture.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act also includes the standing block grant authority for specialty crops, which stems from one of Congresswoman Cammack's leading legislative initiatives before the House Agriculture Committee.

While citrus producers continue to struggle with citrus greening, Rep. Cammack helped reauthorize the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program.

For agricultural labor, Rep. Cammack secured a groundbreaking program for precision agriculture and improves

precision agriculture practices and their accessibility for producers.

The Livestock Indemnity Program is updated within this bill to increase the payment rate to 100 percent of the fair market value of the animal. Rep. Cammack's effort to secure this provision will help Florida's ranchers continue their way of life in the 21st century.

Florida's rich timber industry will be able to maintain its health with the Forest Service's authority to expand existing programs to address wildfire.

Finally, Florida's commodities received a critical voluntary base acre update and a commodity price raise.

Rep. Cammack praised the work of the Committee, saying:

"The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 is the culmination of a lot of hard work and listening to producers from around the country. The crafting of this bill has been no easy endeavor, and we still have a long way to go in getting this across the finish line. However, to secure so many critical wins in this base text for Florida farmers, ranchers, and producers is a big relief. Knowing the tremendous pressures our agriculture community has been under in the Sunshine State, it was said all along that Florida had both the most to lose and the most to gain in this bill and I am so glad that we came out on the favorable side of that equation.

"Florida will remain a strong and competitive production agriculture state because of this work and I am so thankful for the many people and organizations that helped along the way. I am especially proud of my team and my local producers who took so much time over the years to help craft this thoughtful and impactful policy. We are looking forward to the next steps of bringing this bill to the House Floor for a full vote and ultimately, to the President's

desk."

Rep. Cammack Joins Colleagues In  
Bipartisan Resolution To Memorialize  
Officers Lost In Line Of Duty

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Rep. Cammack joined a bipartisan delegation of members to introduce a resolution which seeks to honor and memorialize law enforcement whose lives were lost in the line of duty.

H. Res. 1226 expresses unwavering support for law enforcement across the nation and recognizes the importance that police officers have all the equipment and resources necessary to keep our communities safe in order to protect them while they tirelessly protect us.

A Busy June Comes To An End

This week marked the last week in Washington for the month. Next week we celebrate Independence Day with events throughout the district, and I look forward to seeing many of you at parades and July 4th celebrations next weekend.

This week was another busy one in Washington, with many groups from Florida's Third in town, from FFA students to the winner of our 2024 Art Competition. We showed some students from Bronson FFA around the Capitol and attended the celebration for our top artist as the 2024 art pieces were hung in the tunnel to the U.S. Capitol. You can see photos from those visits below.

On Tuesday, Olympic legends Michael Phelps and Allison Schmitt testified before the Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations about how other nations aren't held to the same standard by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). As the Olympic Games in Paris approach next month, it's important that the athletic competitions are fair. You can take a look at the remarks from the hearing below.

Finally, I previewed what I hope folks in North Central Florida most wanted to hear about from Presidents Trump and Biden in the debate last night. You can see what I

hoped they would address, from inflation and the border to crime and foreign affairs.

We wish you and your family a great weekend and look forward to seeing you all in the district this coming week.

With all that's happening this Congress, it is my greatest honor to represent you and hear from you about the issues that matter most. You can read below about what we've been up to this week, and as always, you can stay up to date with us here, on our website, and on X, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

National Right To Life's 2024  
Conference

This morning I spoke at the National Right to Life's annual conference in Washington, D.C. This group of passionate pro-life leaders from across the country gather once a year to share their stories and advocate for life. It was an honor to speak with them before a busy morning of votes on the House Floor. Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and why we must continue to fight for the most vulnerable among us—the unborn.

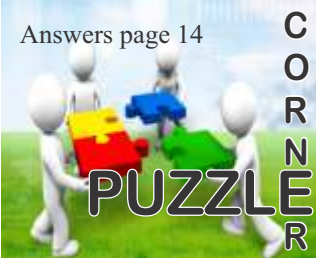
Honoring Our 2024 Art Competition  
Winner

I was excited to welcome Nicole Miller, the 2024 Art Competition winner from West Port High School in Ocala to Washington! Nicole's piece, the "End of an Era," is on display in the U.S. Capitol along with artwork from congressional districts across the U.S.

This week, a celebration in the art competition winners' honor took place in the Capitol Visitors Center to recognize the outstanding work of talented high school students nationwide. Congrats again, Nicole!

Ocala Villages  
News

Answers page 14



Across

- 1. Hit, as with a whip
- 5. Seagoing vessel
- 10. Arid
- 14. Bone near the elbow
- 15. High home
- 16. Cat's weapon
- 17. Big win, say
- 20. Frat party staple
- 21. Knitting need
- 22. External
- 23. Zilch
- 24. Is a nuisance to
- 26. Like two-digit number systems
- 29. Male and female
- 30. Portent
- 31. Throat trouble
- 32. Like the Hatter
- 35. Democratic principle
- 39. Disgusted, with "up"
- 40. Mimics
- 41. Beer

- 42. Santiago is its capital
- 43. A little seasick, say
- 45. Red shade
- 48. Small and weak
- 49. XVII x IX
- 50. Tank contents
- 51. Free (of)
- 54. Painting that became an RCA symbol
- 58. Lawn problem
- 59. Available, as a flat
- 60. Commoner
- 61. Ending for neur-
- 62. Popular locks
- 63. Exam

Down

- 1. Prepare for an ambush
- 2. Toward the sheltered side
- 3. Stocking ruiner
- 4. Owns
- 5. Household warbler
- 6. Nostalgically fashionable
- 7. Elvis \_\_\_ Presley
- 8. Pine family tree
- 9. Golf course area
- 10. Pack members
- 11. Upper crust
- 12. Soap Box Derby entrant

- 13. Wide-spouted pitchers
- 18. Court hearing
- 19. Noted Nez Perc&#233; chief
- 23. Author Grey
- 24. Pmt. coupon tear-off lines
- 25. COO, for one
- 26. Box office smash
- 27. Nagy of Hungary
- 28. Lack
- 29. Put away for later
- 31. Refine, as ore
- 32. Sorvino of "Mimic"
- 33. Winning cards
- 34. Like morning grass
- 36. Showy perennial
- 37. Mayberry lad
- 38. Follow orders
- 42. Felonies, e.g.
- 43. Knights' expeditions
- 44. Silver State inst.
- 45. Dumbbell
- 46. Advertising awards
- 47. Usher's beat
- 48. Blender button
- 50. Went down
- 51. Make angry
- 52. Sorbet relatives
- 53. Obligation
- 55. Porker's hangout
- 56. \_\_\_ man: unanimously
- 57. Choose

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## FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



**ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY'S OFFICE SECURES SECOND 30-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE IN AMORE POOLS**

### CASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution today secured a strong prison sentence against a woman operating a million-dollar pool contracting scheme. The Honorable Judge Dan L. Vaughn sentenced Chrystal Washburn, owner of Amore Pools, to 30 years in prison for defrauding Florida homeowners. Chrystal, alongside husband and co-defendant Brian Washburn, took deposits and payments for pools—often leaving dangerous debris piles and gaping holes in victims' backyards. In total, the duo stole more than \$1.2 million in unaccounted-for cash.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This couple promised to deliver dream pools, but left holes in Floridians' hearts and backyards, by abandoning pool projects and stealing more than \$1.2 million in cash. Thanks to our Statewide Prosecutors, Chrystal Washburn, the owner of this pool company, will now serve 30 years in prison for operating this scheme."

According to an investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Chrystal Washburn started Amore Pools after fraudulently obtaining a contractor's license despite having no experience in the pool industry. Washburn lied on the application and forged another contractor's signature on an affidavit claiming to have worked with that contractor for more than five years. During the course of the scheme, Chrystal Washburn acquired local contractor licenses in various Florida counties by having a Palm Beach County engineer fraudulently vouch for her experience, lie and say that Washburn previously worked for the engineer's company.

Brian Washburn's role in the scheme included acting as the frontman, selling homeowners on the idea of a custom dream pool and did some of the construction work. Chrystal Washburn operated behind the scenes handling contracts and payments. The couple marketed Amore Pools as a small family business, using both attractive digital imaging in sales presentations and emotional invocations of sympathy by describing the family's past tragedies. The Washburns made lofty promises of completing projects within 90 days, or included extra pool features for free to induce homeowners to enter into contracts with Amore and pay large deposits and front-end payments. Often, however, after receiving a deposit, the projects went abandoned, leaving backyards in disarray with dangerous materials and massive holes.

In an attempt to cover up the fraud and make it impossible for customers to receive

money back, the couple used a third-party check cashing store to convert the customer checks into cash. The Washburns also committed identity theft by forging customer signatures on permit applications and notices of commencement. Several victims ended up with liens on their properties when Amore failed to pay its vendors for materials.

A jury found Chrystal Washburn guilty of the following:

- One count of false information on application for contractor's license, a third-degree felony;

- One count of unlicensed contractor, state of emergency, a third-degree felony;

- One count of organized scheme to defraud, a first-degree felony;

- Seven counts of fraudulent use of personal identification information, third-degree felonies;

- Two counts of money laundering, first-degree felonies;

- One count of omit/conceal information to avoid workers' compensation premium, a second-degree felony; and

- One count of insurance application fraud, a first-degree felony.

Attorney General Moody's OSP previously secured a 30-year prison sentence for Brian Washburn.

Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Jonathan Bridges, Cynthia Irvin and Sophia Birriel-Sanchez prosecuted this case.

Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance: Sink or Swim provides resources and tips to avoid pool contractor scams.

### AG MOODY URGES FLORIDIANS TO SEND IN AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUMMIT AS DEADLINE RAPIDLY APPROACHES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—As the deadline for award nominations rapidly approaches, Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging Floridians to submit applications and sign up to attend the 2024 Human Trafficking Summit. Friday, June 28, is the final day to submit nominations. Awards will be presented at the summit to individuals who made a difference in the past year to fight human trafficking in the state of Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Each year, we recognize outstanding Floridians for their extraordinary work in the fight to end human trafficking. The deadline to submit award nominations is rapidly approaching, so don't delay! You can learn more about each award and submit nominations, as well as reserve your spot for our virtual event, by visiting [HumanTraffickingSummit.com](https://HumanTraffickingSummit.com)."

The Florida Attorney General's Office presents the following awards every year during the Human Trafficking Summit: Survivor Advocate of the Year, Community Advocate of the Year, Prosecutor of the Year and Law Enforcement Official of the Year.

The Department of Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice also recognize an individual from the respective departments during the event.

For more information and to submit award nominations, visit [HumanTraffickingSummit.com](https://HumanTraffickingSummit.com).

Florida's Human Trafficking Summit brings together local, state and national

leaders working to eradicate all forms of trafficking. With multiple hours of informational sessions, the summit showcases how Florida continues working to protect victims, prevent trafficking and prosecute traffickers.

The 2024 Human Trafficking Summit will launch virtually on Oct. 1. Registration is free of charge and includes sessions covering recent updates and developments in the subjects of legal, service delivery, and education and awareness.

To learn about the signs of human trafficking and how to properly report suspicious activity to law enforcement, visit [YouCanStopHT.com](https://YouCanStopHT.com).

### AG MOODY ANNOUNCES ARREST OF SIX FRAUDSTERS FOR STEALING NEARLY \$250,000 FROM SENIORS THROUGH GRANDPARENT SCAMS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution today announced the arrest of six fraudsters for stealing nearly \$250,000 from Florida seniors through grandparent scams. The Miami-Dade Police Department's Vice Intelligence Squad reports that the defendants contacted seniors posing as lawyers or legal representatives of one of the victim's grandchildren. The fraudsters told the targets that the grandchildren were arrested after hitting a pregnant woman with a vehicle and needed bail money, then arranged for the victim to send payment.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "These fraudsters know that most grandparents would do anything to help a grandchild in need, and through a convincing imposter scheme they used fear and family to extort Florida seniors—stealing nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Working with our great law enforcement partners in South Florida, we were able to shut down this far-reaching grandparent scheme and now six fraudsters will have to answer for their crimes."

Miami-Dade Police Department Director Stephanie V. Daniels said, "I am immensely proud of the Miami-Dade Police Department's Vice Intelligence Squad, for their exceptional collaboration with the Florida Attorney General, and federal agencies in successfully apprehending individuals involved in extorting the elderly population. Their dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to protecting our community's most vulnerable population are truly commendable."

After telling the targets the falsified story about the grandchildren in jail, the fraudsters pressured seniors to provide bail money. According to the investigation, the defendants directed the victims to obtain the bail amount in cash, then place it into a box to be picked up by a courier. The couriers—unknowing ride-share drivers booked by the criminals—picked up the cash and transported the money back to the scammers at an arranged rendezvous spot.

In a few instances, the scammers contacted the same victim multiple times pressuring for more cash. In one instance, a Palm Bay victim made an initial bond payment of \$9,000, but fraudsters told the victim that the pregnant woman miscarried and the grandchild required an additional \$18,000 because authorities upgraded the charges. The defendants then told the same victim the baby's father attacked the senior's

grandson for causing the miscarriage, and during the course of the attack the grandchild elbowed a police officer, causing an additional \$20,000 needed for bail, as well as \$7,500 in court fees. The victim ended up paying the fraudsters more than \$54,000. Nearly identical events happened to a Melbourne victim, who paid \$53,000 to the criminal group.

In another case, a Sarasota victim sent \$8,000 and the fraudsters called back the next day saying the pregnant woman lost the child and requested another \$4,000 for bail. The day after that, the defendants claimed the grandson owed medical bills due to the accident and required another \$1,700.

A victim in Pompano paid \$30,000 for bail and later sent an additional \$7,000 because the fraudsters claimed the pregnant woman died and the bond increased.

These defendants preyed upon seniors in multiple counties, including Brevard, Broward, Lee, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach and Sarasota. The Miami-Dade Police Department, Sunny Isles Beach Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, Brevard Sheriff's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boca Raton Police Department, North Port Police Department, Broward County Sheriff's Office, Palm Bay Police Department, Jupiter Police Department, Manatee County Sheriff's Office and West Palm Beach Police Department partnered together on the investigation.

All six defendants, Jairo Izquierdo, Gennessis Castro, Wendy Angelina Ortiz, Ada Tido, Wandy Castro and Olfa Cornielle, face multiple first-degree felonies, including organized scheme to defraud, grand theft, criminal use of personal identification and more.

Attorney General Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution will prosecute this case.



**Ocala Downtown  
Seniors Voice of Ocala  
Village Spectator  
Lady Lake Magazine**

**Call/Email Tom:  
352-804-1223  
[tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)**



FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



DeSantis Commits Increases to Teacher Pay

HIALEAH, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his commitment to approving a historic teacher salary funding increase of \$1.25 billion in the budget for Fiscal Year 2024–25. Since 2019, Florida has invested over \$4 billion in teacher pay increases and has raised starting teacher pay by nearly \$10,000. To learn more, click here.

“Florida’s education system is number one in the nation, and we want to make sure good educators are attracted to Florida with attractive compensation,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “I am proud to have invested more than \$4 billion for teacher pay increases since the beginning of my time in office, and I will continue to push for increased funding for Florida’s teachers.”

“I want to thank Governor DeSantis for his steadfast commitment and unwavering dedication to Florida’s education system throughout the years,” said Florida Department of Education Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr. “Florida continues to attract some of the best educators in the country and it is a testament to the work that Governor DeSantis has done to support education and raise teacher pay. Florida is the education state and with investments like this, we will continue to lead the nation for years to come.”

For the 2023–2024 school year, Florida’s average starting teacher pay is over \$48,000, and the average teacher salary exceeds \$54,000.

Before Governor DeSantis took office, there was no dedicated, recurring funding for teacher pay increases. In 2020, the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation was established in the budget and has risen from \$500,000,000 to more than \$1.25 billion approved today for the upcoming year. Thanks to the work of Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature, Florida has the highest average starting teacher salary in the southeast United States.

DeSantis Highlights Coral Reef

MARATHON, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted Florida’s investments in coral reef protection and announced enhancements to the 2024 Lionfish Challenge and 2024 Lobster Mini-Season. Through the FY 2024–2025 Focus on Florida’s Future Budget, the Governor invested a historic \$57 million for coral reef restoration and coastal protection, bringing the total investment in these efforts in the Governor’s second term to over \$114 million.

The Governor also highlighted \$5 million in funding to create additional artificial reef habitats through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). This funding will support the establishment of an innovative framework for installing, overseeing, and preserving artificial reef habitats in the Florida Keys.

And earlier this year, Governor DeSantis allocated \$9.5 million to Florida’s Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative.

This year’s investments in coral reefs through the Florida state budget exceed the total investment requested by the Biden administration for coral reef restoration across the entire United States.

“Florida has the best fishing and boating in the world because we have the greatest natural resources,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “That’s why our state is making record investments in protecting our natural treasures, like our coral reefs. Additionally, I was pleased today to announce additional prizes for the annual Lionfish Challenge and an extra day for Floridians to harvest lobster.”

“From lobstering to world-class fishing, the Keys exemplify Florida as the Boating and Fishing Capital of the World,” said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. “Through Governor DeSantis’ support of conserving our natural resources, we will continue to promote the removal of invasive species—such as the lionfish—that negatively impact our waters.”

The Governor also announced that in addition to the 2024 recreational spiny lobster mini-season that will be Wednesday, July 24, and Thursday, July 25, an additional day will be added Sunday, July 14, exclusively for Florida residents. The regular commercial and recreational lobster season will begin on August 6, 2024, and end on March 31, 2025.

Finally, to combat the threat posed by invasive lionfish, Governor DeSantis spotlighted the 2024 Lionfish Challenge that is running through September 2, 2024. This statewide program allows the public to engage in conservation by hunting lionfish to win prizes and contribute to protecting Florida’s natural resources.

Participants can register at FWCReefRangers.com and choose to join either the recreational or commercial category. Since 2014, over one million lionfish have been removed from Florida’s oceans through the Lionfish Challenge. This challenge features a tiered prize system, rewarding divers based on the number of lionfish they harvest. Participants who reach Tier 1 by harvesting 25 lionfish in the recreational category (or 50 pounds of lionfish in the commercial category) will receive a commemorative 2024 Lionfish Challenge Coin. Traditionally, Tier 1 participants keep one additional spiny lobster per day during the Lobster Mini-Season as a prize. However, the Governor today announced that, this year, Tier 1 participants will get to keep two additional lobsters per day.

Boost Your Home Wi-Fi



Boost Your Home Wi-Fi for Ultimate Summer Fun!

(NewsUSA) - With summer break upon us, families are gearing up to spend more time at home together, leading to increased demand on their internet connections to support various devices. On average, internet users ages 16-64 already spend 47 hours per week online, but as the heat sets in, families are likely to find themselves retreating indoors and relying even more heavily on robust Wi-Fi for everything from streaming movies to staying connected with loved ones.

This heightened need makes a mesh Wi-Fi system crucial for maintaining consistent coverage within your household, eradicating dead zones, and ensuring a stable, reliable internet connection. High-speed routers, mesh Wi-Fi systems, and smart home hubs have facilitated an improved internet experience. By strategically distributing multiple access points throughout your home, mesh networks guarantee seamless connectivity in every room, including notoriously hard-to-reach areas like basements or backyards.

A mesh network’s adaptable design allows you to add nodes—small radio transmitters that act as wireless routers and endpoints in a mesh network—effortlessly within all corners of your house, accommodating guests or even extending the network for outdoor activities. These mesh networks, like those found in whole-home Wi-Fi systems, revolutionize home connectivity with their unmatched flexibility and reliability. As opposed to a single central router, these systems connect devices through multiple nodes, creating a resilient web of connections.

This design means your internet service isn’t tied to one point. Through self-healing capabilities, if one node fails, the data seamlessly reroutes through alternative paths, maintaining uninterrupted connectivity. Unlike traditional Wi-Fi extenders, mesh Wi-Fi systems deliver faster speeds because the mesh router and nodes collaborate as a unified network. This setup provides dependable connectivity that smart home systems and interconnected devices, like thermostats, security systems, and smart appliances, need to run.

Hughes, a leader in home Wi-Fi technology, recently introduced new Hughesnet® service plans that are transforming connectivity and accessibility in rural America. These plans come equipped with a Wi-Fi modem featuring Wi-Fi 6 technology, delivering improved speed, enhanced security, and better performance for multiple devices. To

further extend the range and assist with factors that can influence the reach of your Wi-Fi signal, including a home’s square footage, number of floors, or wall construction, Mesh Wi-Fi Nodes are also available as add-ons. The new Hughesnet plans enhance the internet experience with unlimited data and decreased latency, ensuring even the most remote locations can enjoy the benefits of a robust and reliable internet connection.

A stable and dependable Wi-Fi network is the key to a blissful, connected home life, allowing families to enjoy

their favorite activities without the nagging worry of signal strength or dead zones. This summer, as everyone gathers under one roof, a high-quality and secure Wi-Fi connection becomes indispensable. On those sweltering days when venturing outside is out of the question, kids can dive into their computer games, mom can break a sweat with Peloton, and dad can master new recipes on YouTube—all simultaneously. Embracing mesh networks for seamless wall-to-wall Wi-Fi coverage eliminates the frustration of limited connectivity, ensuring every family member remains effortlessly connected and entertained.

Article Link  
<https://about.newsusa.com/boost-your-home-wi-fi-for-ultimate-summer-fun>

Toys for Tots



Toys for Tots Supports Children for a Summer of Fun and Learning

(NewsUSA) - Most children in the United States look forward to their summer break from school as a chance to have fun with friends, spend time with family, and have new adventures and experiences that are so crucial to stimulate and nurture young and inquisitive minds.

However, far too many disadvantaged children across the Nation experience summer vacation as a period of loneliness and isolation, with little support and few resources or opportunities for physical and mental stimulation.

According to the National Institutes of Health, school holidays can be especially stressful periods for children from low-income families, with lack of appropriate child care, limited access to enrichment activities, and food insecurity. These challenges can cause children’s physical and

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## Delicious Star-Spangled Punch



fresh fruit to make a delicious, creative summer sipper to enhance any event.

### Star-Spangled Punch

- 1/4 cup blueberries
- 1/4 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 lemon, sliced
- Watermelon
- 2 7.5 oz cans Seagram's Escapes Jamaican Me Sunny
- 1/2 cup whiskey
- 1 1/2 cups lemonade
- Mint leaves, as desired
- 1/2 cup of club soda

### Celebrate Summer with Delicious Star-Spangled Punch

(NewsUSA) - As Fourth of July approaches, so do summer celebrations. Festive occasions indoors or outdoors, call for great food and summer favorites like hot dogs and barbeque. No matter where the party or what menu you choose, a signature drink is sure to enhance any summer get together!

Make your Fourth of July or any summer occasion sparkle brighter with Star-Spangled Punch. Featuring the sweet and tangy pineapple flavor of Seagram's Escapes new Jamaican Me Sunny, the punch recipe combines just a few ingredients and

To prepare the punch, cut a thin slice of watermelon and use a cookie cutter to cut watermelon into star shapes. Prepare and slice other fruit.

Fill a pitcher with ice and add all the prepared fruit to the pitcher. Then, add Seagram's Escapes Jamaican Me Sunny, club soda, whiskey, lemonade and mint. Stir to combine.

To save time on party day, slice the fruit and make your watermelon shapes in advance and keep refrigerated until it's time to assemble the punch. If serving a crowd, multiply the above recipe as needed, get out your favorite festive punch bowl and ladle, and float the watermelon shapes in the bowl.

Divide into glasses and enjoy at a Fourth

of July cookout, graduation party, birthday, wedding, or any other summer celebration.

As with any recipes in the Seagram's Escapes collection, you can make this one your own. Create a unique drink for a particular event, customize with extra spirits or your favorite fruits. Have other cookie cutters? Try mixing up the stars with sun shapes, hearts, or flowers.

As warmer weather kicks in, try freezing any Seagram's Escapes flavor or even mix with lemonade then blend for the ultimate adult slushy.

Visit [seagramsescapes.com](https://seagramsescapes.com) for more information and other summer recipe ideas. <https://about.newsusa.com/celebrate-summer-with-delicious-star-spangled-punch>

## Toys for Tots

*Continued from page 14*

emotional health, as well as academic progress from the previous school year, to stagnate or decline.

Marine Toys for Tots, the Nation's flagship children's Christmastime charity, has evolved into a year-round force for good, and the organization's new initiative seeks to provide support for children in need over the summer months.

"We want to help bridge the summer learning-loss gap that children in underserved communities may face. That is why we have enlisted the help from our distribution partners to provide educational

toys, books, games, and other gifts through our spring and summertime initiative, 'School Is Out - Play Is In' to at-risk children across the country," says LtGen Jim Laster, USMC (Retired), President & CEO of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

"Needs aren't seasonal, and neither is Toys for Tots," says LtGen Laster. "With the rising cost of living and other economic challenges, parents are finding it increasingly difficult to pay bills and put food on their family's table. Buying toys, books, or games for their children seems completely out of reach," he adds. "With the support from our generous donors, we can make sure every child's summer is filled with opportunities for fun and continued learning."

The Program's year-round distributions reassure families who face adversity and exceptional circumstances that Marine Toys for Tots is committed to delivering messages of hope, restoring and building self-esteem, and inspiring youngsters to grow into responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. Every contribution will ensure that our Nation's most vulnerable children have the educational tools they need to thrive this summer and beyond.

For more information on Marine Toys for Tots' year-round charitable programs and how you can help, please visit: <https://www.toysfortots.org/support-us/>.

<https://about.newsusa.com/toys-for-tots-supports-children-for-a-summer-of-fun-and-learning>

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