



Meet JD Vance

Information from the Internet & fact checked.

Something about JD Vance's path to becoming a United States Marine, and what being a veteran means to me.

He grew up in the small town of Middletown, Ohio.

Middletown was once an industrial powerhouse, but thanks to the unfair trade deals signed by our “leaders” in DC, the people of Middletown were left behind.

Like most of the enlisted Marines he served with, he joined the military to serve my country. It was also a way for a kid from a poor family to achieve the American Dream.

When he got off the bus and stepped on the yellow footprints at Marine Corps Recruit Training, I honestly didn't know what I was getting into.

But when his Drill Instructor handed him his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor and I earned the title of United States Marine, it was one of the proudest moments of his life.

September Holidays

Not Just About Labor Day Who comes up with these???

Sept. 1: American Chess Day, Ginger Cat Appreciation Day, American Chess Day, Emma M. Nutt Day, National Cherry Popover Day, National Tofu Day, World Letter Writing Day, Pink Cadillac Day, National Little Black Dress Day

Sept. 2: Labor Day, World Beard Day, World Coconut Day, Calendar Adjustment Day, National Live Fearless Day, National Blueberry Popsicle Day,

Sept. 3: National Skyscraper Day, National



The Art of Aging opening reception Friday, August 2nd. Marion Cultural Alliance and Marion Senior Services. This is the 9th Annual event. Be sure to check

it out at Brick City Center for the Arts 23 SW Broadway Street, Ocala, FL 34471. More pictures on pages 6 & 7. **Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson**



It's Our Tax Money Not For A Socialist Government

by TomL

After receiving notice that Cheatle resigned Trump made his own statement. He said, “The Biden/Harris Administration did not properly protect me, and said “I was forced to take a bullet for Democracy.” He then added, in all caps, that it was his “great honor to do so.” In the process a first responder Fireman gave his life to protect his family. They have blood on their hands. Now the team is Harris/Walz. Some people say Harris is a chameleon, I think she is more like a female leopard they never change their spots and she is trying convince the voters that she has changed over night. She has total changed her views and adopting Trumps political views to steel his votes. One of the news media's said she is going for people who don't follow politics or are low information voters. That is true their

are people out there that don't know who she is but they will go to a protest and support her.

Remember all the things that they are promising is coming out of YOU the tax payers money. If they make the changes Social Security, wellfair. Health Insurance (no private insurance) taking your guns away with the mandatory gun buy back program ???, control the fuel/food/oil/guns/electricity and they will ask your neighbors to turn you in if they you brake their rules, then we are set back 500 years..

Get this there was a parade in Afgaustan with the Talaban army show off all the equipment that Bidden / Harris left there along with many alies only to be slotted. That equipment was paid for by your tax

money. They are using our equipment to fight us and try to kill our troops.

Walz is a Solialist as he has said on national TV. Both of these people I beleive are the enemy! Harris's father is a Marxist professor today.

They called it price gauging, no it is an attempt to control our food supply. Just like the buy back Harris wants to do with the guns. Control everything. The Socialist / Communist Country of Cuba. I was there for a week in my younger days. Now here is what happens. They set up the rules of their government and if a neighborhood defies them they turn off the power to that section of town for a week. If you vote the Democrats in that will happen here. We will have a bunch of beat down people going to slaughter.

By the way I keep hearing the term “Biden dropped out of the race” that is not true he was forced out by the top three. I did not think he could do the job a long time ago, but forcing a president to resign was what happened.

Bowling League Day

Sept. 4: National Wildlife Day, National Macadamia Nut Day, Eat an Extra Dessert Day

Sept. 5: National Be Late for Something Day, National Cheese Pizza Day,

International Day of Charity, World Samosa Day

Sept. 6: National Coffee Ice Cream Day, Fight Procrastination Day, National 401(k) Day, National Read a Book Day, National Lazy Mom's Day, National Food Bank Day

Sept. 7: National Salami Day, Buy a Book Day, International Bacon Day, National Acorn Squash Day, Neither Rain Nor Snow Day,\

Sept. 7: National Salami Day, Buy a Book

Continued page 8

Ocala Events

First Friday Art Walk
09/06/2024 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Location:
Downtown Square
1 SE Broadway St.
Ocala, Florida 34471

Live On the Square-- Stephen Perry
09/07/2024 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Location:
Downtown Square
1 SE Broadway St.
Ocala, Florida 34471

Tell us a Scary Story Crafters and More
09/14/2024 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Location:
Citizens' Circle
151 SE Osceola Ave.
Ocala, Florida 34471
A craft fair with amazing Marion County crafters and lots of interesting authors, psychics, mediums and more. People telling scary stories!

Marion County Heart Walk
09/21/2024 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location:
Citizens' Circle
151 SE Osceola Ave.
Ocala, Florida 34471
5k Walk to promote healthy living in the community as well as raise funds for the lifesaving mission of the American Heart Association.

2024 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Ocala, FL
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Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



For most people who do not call our state home, when they hear “Florida” they think vacation. In fact, many have suggested half in jest that instead of the Sunshine State our nickname should be the Tourist State. One of the reasons our state can have no state personal income tax or state property tax is because of the tens of millions of tourists who visit our beaches and theme parks. However, many would be surprised to learn that Florida's first commercial tourist attraction was not at an oceanside community or near the big mouse, but here. In Ocala.

Silver Springs was Florida's first commercial tourist attraction. Glass-bottom boats have wowed guests since 1878. Look at the sentence again. Visitors to the Springs

have been riding on glass bottom boats for 146 years! Tourists began arriving by the thousands via steamboat and railroad to tour the must-see Springs. By 1962, more than 1.5 million guests a year visited Silver Springs and ranked as Florida's most visited destination.

The arrival of Walt Disney World in 1971 began a period of rapid decline at Silver Springs. Blame the mouse, blame poor ownership, blame changing interests. Regardless of why, the park drew fewer and fewer tourists and was converted to a state park in 2013. From an economic perspective, tourism has not been a major driver in the local economy since the early 70's. However, that is changing.

New Players, New Opportunities

The arrival of the World Equestrian Center changed everything when it opened in late 2020. The continued growth and development of this truly one-of-a-kind complex is drawing visitors from around the world. The breadth of facilities, hotels, dining, shopping, and entertainment make it truly worthy of its recent designation by

Time as one of the “World's Greatest Places.” When taken with the addition of the Florida Aquatic Swimming and Training facility, our community once again has tourism becoming a driver of the local economy.

How do we know this? One could look at the significant year-over-year increases in the local Tourism Development Tax (bed tax) collections. Another great indicator is the number of new hotels recently opened, under construction, or slated to begin construction soon. By our count, this numbers more than a dozen additional hotels with approximately 1400 rooms. Regardless of how one measures it, tourism is growing.

Silver Springs

So where does that leave our original tourism attraction. The Springs, combined with our other natural attractions - Rainbow Springs, the Forest, Santos Trail, etc. - and our other tourism subsectors (downtown, the arts, and the rest of the equine industry form a great supporting cast). Tourists will come for WEC and stay longer for the horse farms, the downtown square, and a visit to Silver Springs. Improving each of these only makes the rest of the market stronger.

The opportunities for tourism growth at not only Silver Springs but throughout the Ocala Metro is significant. It not only

allows us to share all that we enjoy about our home with others, but it helps to grow and diversify the local economy. Partnering local and state resources and local entrepreneurs is a great way for us to preserve, protect, and promote these great assets.

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



By TomL

During an interview of Donald Trump, Elon Musk of Tesla and X CEO suggested creating a "government efficiency commission" to study and discuss

Government Spending. GREAT IDEA! Trump said he wanted to cut some of the Government programs. Elon Musk said he would like to be part of that commission that

does the study.

A report claims 30% of the hospital money is being spent on the Undocumented (illegals) and the government is paying the migrants twice as much as the retirees are getting. Some of the government Dems say that we should not have Social Security. There would not be any problem with funding it if the politicians would have stop using it to pay for their pet project.

Trump said "The Biden/Harris Administration did not Properly protect me, and said "I was forced to take a bullet for Democracy." He then added, in all caps, that

it was his "GREAT HONOR TO DO SO!" In the process a first responder Fireman gave his life protectING his family. The current Administration has blood on their hands. Now the team is Harris/Walz. Some people say Harris is a chamlian, I think she is more like a femal leopard they never change their spots and she is trying convince the voters that she has changed over night. She has total changed her views and adopting Trumps political views to steel his votes. One of the news media's said she is going for people who don't follow politics or are low information voters. In other words if you fall for a gimmick in a speach you are stupid. I don't beleive that, but their are a few that don't even know who she is. But they will when the door knockers are going around collecting votes. Even people don't knoe her they will go out and protest and support her.

Another thing I have not heard mentioned. I sat and listened to an undocumented person who said they had a family meeting in the country they came from. The father said there was more money in the United states than any country they could go too. They are here and in school and meeting other children their age and

some will fall in love and marry. If they marry an American they will become an Americans spouse and probably can't be deported. I don't have a problem with it, that represents a few more permanant people on the roles.

Let's talk about the people who are escaping the states they are in. Leave the state habits where you came from back there. Try to fit into the way of life where you want to settle. Florida is getting a lot of intrusion! Don't try to change things to what you are use to. We have a great state. You are welcome here only don't try to make here like there. If you want to make here like there you should not have left there in the first place. That sounded like a speach from Harris with the here there stuff. IT TRUE! Think about it you live in a place that changed to a place you don't like. When you move except the life style in your new environment.

To all these people coming to Florida... The Governor needs to write a mandate to leave their state habits in the state they came from. That means their driving habits also. I have almost been run over in parking lots twice in a month. I know, I know you say it

Continued page 5



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

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for October

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, Sept 20th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, Sept 24th

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

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

Phone: 352-804-1223 | Fax: 352-489-7208

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The New Reverse Mortgage

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



From the Desk of Senator Dennis Baxley---

Good morning, friends-The Primary elections are over. The General election is just around the corner, including the Presidential election and six Constitutional Amendments. Make sure you have read and understand about the amendments. They include Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards; The Right to Fish and Hunt; Adult Personal Use of Marijuana; Limit Government Interference with Abortion; Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions; and Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement.

For more information you can reach out to your Supervisor of Elections office.

Initial mailout of Vote-by-Mail Ballots for the November 2024 General Election for Military and Overseas Voters is September 20, 2024, Initial Mailout of Vote-by-Mail Ballots for the 2024 November General Election is September 27, 2024. Vote-By-Mail Ballot Mailouts and Counter Pickups continue for the November 2024 General Election September 30-October 4, 2024.

Early Voting dates and times for the General Election are October 21st – November 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The General Election is on November 5th, voting is from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

GET OUT THE VOTE!!!

Onward & Upward



don't have to feed them. Animal Control don't like those calls. About the fourth time they were called they went and told the guy he would be fined and if they sent someone to catch the cows he would have to pay for the cowboy that round them up. Of all the trespassers humans were the most offensive!

OFFICIAL MEMO FROM JD VANCE

When President Trump asked me to be his Vice Presidential Nominee, this is what he told him:

"Mr. President, it would be an honor to serve as your Vice President.

During your time in office, America was at its best.

Our economy was roaring, our border was under control, our cities were safe, and we were respected overseas.

As your Vice President, I will faithfully serve by your side and help you make our country GREAT AGAIN!"

Interesting comment from Orlando he says..

When one door closes and another door opens,

Your are probably in prison.

Ha! Ha! He also said...

The older I get the earlier it gets late.

Ha! A little humor but true.

As I see it Fair Tax is not an additional tax

it's a replacement tax! It takes the place of federal and state taxes. It does not tax you every year like the federal income tax it only taxes you when you buy something new. When that same item 5 years down the road is sold the sale is tax free. Trump wants to tax imports. That would even be better along with the Fair Tax. Read the Fair Tax column we have every month. Next month

Read TomL
Newspapers
Online
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Our Tax Money
At Work

THEY GOT CAUGHT!

Information From the Internet

I guess the Biden / Harris team did not do such a good job after all.

They reported a job growth of 818,000 to many. Just a small mistake. Small error!

I wonder if they were trying to make themself look good for the election???

Hmmmm

GOT CAUGHT!

The IRS is cracking down on more tax cheats this year but failed to enforce this standard on thousands of its employees. While 96% of IRS employees fulfilled their tax obligations last year, a significant share were delinquent, owing nearly \$50 million in taxes to the IRS, a new oversight report found. GOT CAUGHT!

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) is pushing for a regular audit of the Internal Revenue Service after a new inspector general report found that nearly 6,000 employees owe nearly \$50 million in back taxes.

The July 24 report, requested by Ernst and conducted by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, found that while 96% of employees were compliant with tax obligations, over 5,800 IRS and contractor employees owed nearly \$50 million in overdue taxes, and only 20 of the

agency's employees who were failing to pay taxes were terminated.

The senator also took issue with a figure in the report that found over 500 former IRS employees with tax compliance issues or performance issues, "including criminal misconduct, sexual misconduct, inability to perform duties, fighting and assault, and unauthorized access to tax return information," were rehired. Of the rehires, 282 had multiple previously documented conduct and performance issues.

Publisher

Continued from page 4

was on purpose Ha Ha. When I moved to Dunnellon and bought acreage 54 years ago, the first thing a neighbor said to me was "the first thing you guys do when you move here is put up a fence." I said "YES it's to keep your damn animals out of my yard!" Since then many have ask if their horse or cows can graze in our fence? Since then we have had every animal you could think of in my yard even after we put up the fence! Probably 40 or 50 species. Stray dogs, stray cats other peoples live stock, horses, cows, Lamas, peacocks and etc all domestic animals in our yard eating the vegetable garden and Flowers. We like to see the wild animals but someone else's cows trying to get in our pasture because the grass is greener. One guy let his cows run loose so he

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The Art of Aging Art Exhibit

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

The Art of Aging opening at Brick City Center for the Arts 23 reception Friday, August 2nd. SW Broadway Street, Ocala, FL 34471 Marion Cultural Alliance and Marion Senior Services. This is the 9th Annual event. Be sure to check it out

The pictures were taken by CK Johnson



The Art of Aging Art Exhibit

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



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Everyone has heard the story of The Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen where a very vain emperor obsessed with his appearance is approached by two weavers who claim they can weave the finest clothes imaginable. So fine that they are invisible to anyone who is unfit for their position or hopelessly stupid. Eager to flaunt these magical garments, the emperor commissions the weavers who proceed to pretend to work at their looms but producing nothing. Fearing to be seen as unfit or stupid, the emperor pretends to see the nonexistent clothing and decides to give a formal parade to show off his new garments.

For a time, all the parade observers are eager to show that they are not stupid so they exclaimed how wonderful the emperor's new clothes seem. However the ruse is exposed when a child points out to his mother that the emperor is wearing nothing at all. Hearing the child, others begin to say the same thing and the embarrassed emperor is hurried back to his castle.

What does this fairytale have to do with reform of the U.S. tax system? Since 1913, the Elites have told the American people that only people "unfit for their position or hopelessly stupid" would question the logic and benefits of a system that:

*Tells taxpayers that a refund of taxes they overpaid each year is a "gift" from the government and they should be grateful.

*Tells the Americans people that even though the income/payroll tax system is complicated and harms American competitiveness and costs American jobs, that it is the necessary price paid for having a "fair" system.

*Tells people that even though their personal and private tax returns may very well be leaked, it is still ok to require the onerous forms that often require paying tax professionals to complete.

Andersen's fairytale serves as a reminder of the importance of critical thinking and the courage to speak the truth. The Elites who reprimand and belittle us for seeking real tax reform are desperately afraid they will be exposed not as the intellectual superiors they claim to be, but as scared people who are wearing "no clothes".

Americans have always been proud of the fact that we, as a nation, demand the truth from our leaders. It's time we demand the truth about our failed income/payroll tax system and demand REAL tax reform - ADOPT THE FAIRTAX.

For more information, please go to FAIRtax.org

Holidays

Continued from page 1

Day, International Bacon Day, National Acorn Squash Day, Neither Rain Nor Snow Day, National Beer Lover's Day, National Grandma Moses Day, International Day of Clean Air, National Acorn Squash Day, National Hummingbird Day, National Tailgating Day

Sept. 8: Grandparents Day, International Literacy Day, National Ampersand Day,

National Dog Walker Appreciation Day, National Hug Your Hound Day, National Iguana Awareness Day, World Physical Therapy Day, Star Trek Day, National Pet Memorial Day

Sept. 9: Wonderful WeirDOS Day, National Teddy Bear Day, National When Pigs Fly Day, International Sudoku Day, International Box Wine Day

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Join us at the Ocala Downtown Market (ODM) to purchase a diverse array of products from farmers, artisans, craftspeople, food trucks! A true destination location, ODM is set just blocks off the Ocala Downtown square, in a beautiful open-air Market Pavilion. Besides permanent roof cover the facility it also has large overhead fans, restrooms, a nearby ATM, and water fountains. The Market Pavilion is also available for rental.



Interested in becoming a vendor?
Visit www.ManageMyMarket.com

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7:30AM-12:30PM**

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CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE, VISIT
HABITATOCALA.ORG**

**WE OFFER
COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS!**

RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR
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RETAIL TASKS
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MON-SAT/8:30-4:30**



**HELP WITH VARIOUS
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STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL &
SOUTHEASTERN PRO RODEO**

**TYLER STARR
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
(352) 351-4663
TSTARR@HABITATOCALA.ORG**



Love is just a leash away!!

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

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

How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



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



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

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



Humane Society of Marion County
PO Box 1542 Ocala, FL 34478
Mail check or complete the credit/debit card payment form.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Discover Card # _____ Exp date: _____ Code: _____

Donations to the Humane Society are tax-deductible. Check with your accountant for more information. No goods or services have been provided to the donor as a result of this gift.



FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Leaders to Inform the Public About How to Report Voter Registration Fraud

Attorney General Ashley Moody today in Orlando encouraged vigilance in spotting and reporting voter fraud at the Florida Tax Collectors Association Annual Conference. Tax collector offices around the state are where Floridians go to interact face to face with government. In Florida, tax collectors are independent constitutional officers duly elected by registered voters.

These county government leaders do more than collect taxes. In tax collector offices, Floridians can receive vehicle tags, hunting licenses, driver's licenses and even submit voter registration forms. With the 2024 presidential election around the corner, Attorney General Moody is encouraging tax collectors to display information about reporting voter registration crimes to Florida's Voter Fraud Hotline: 1(877)868-3737.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "For many Floridians, tax collectors are the face of the government. Tax collectors help them obtain their first driver's license and can even help them register to vote. Florida has taken great steps to ensure the integrity of our elections. Today, I encouraged tax collectors to help us keep Florida elections secure by posting information about Florida's Voter Fraud Hotline—so Floridians know how and where to report suspicious activity."

In 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis created the Florida Department of State's Office of Election Crimes and Security to conduct preliminary investigations into irregularities or fraud involving voter registration, voting, candidate or issue petition activities, or any other alleged violations of Florida's Election Code. According to the website, OECS has reviewed and investigated more than 3,000 complaints and allegations of election fraud. Additionally, OECS has initiated more than 1,300 independent investigations.

At the annual conference, Attorney General Moody asked tax collectors to post the OECS information in offices across the state, so Floridians know where and how to report illegal voter registration. The call follows efforts by Attorney General Moody to encourage elected leaders to provide the public with information to anonymously report criminal activity through **TIPS and display other public-safety messages aimed at spotting and preventing consumer fraud.

As Colleges and Universities Begin a New Academic Year, AG Moody Advises Higher Education Officials About Legal Protections and Shared Commitment to Jewish Students in Florida

As colleges and universities begin a new academic year, Attorney General Ashley Moody today sent a reminder to higher education officials in Florida about their duty to protect Florida's Jewish students from harassment, intimidation and other incidents of antisemitism. The reminder comes in the wake of radical antisemitic protests continuing around the nation and following the destructive protests witnessed

at colleges and universities in the previous academic year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Last year, my office circulated a memo advising higher education officials of the zero-tolerance policy for antisemitism in our state. Florida offered an example to the rest of the country with swift action while other states witnessed their colleges and universities overtaken by chaos and, in some instances, crime. Let this serve as a reminder, there is no room in our state for lawlessness or antisemitism. As a new school year begins, we are renewing our commitment to making Florida a safe state for Jewish students."

The letter states, "In the days and months following the horrific October 7 attacks on Israel, America saw university administrators across the country utterly fail to protect Jewish students and maintain law and order. Many schools allowed encampments and demonstrations to disrupt student life and school operations...Some of these schools even tolerated overt acts of antisemitic harassment and violence. And because school administrators allowed this unconscionable conduct to continue throughout the entire school year, some universities were forced to cancel graduation ceremonies."

The letter points out that in Florida, schools stood by Jewish students and ensured that Florida's campuses remained institutions of education, "instead of cesspools of lawlessness and hate."

Attorney General Moody goes on to remind school officials that there are legal risks for colleges and universities if they fail to uphold protections for Jewish students. "I also want to advise you that failing to protect Jewish students would create significant legal risk for Florida colleges and

universities. For example, a federal court in California recently entered an injunction against UCLA after the court found that 'Jewish students were excluded from portions of the UCLA campus because they refused to denounce their faith,' a fact the court called 'unimaginable' and 'abhorrent to our constitutional guarantee of religious freedom.' Such failures may also put federal funding at risk."

Attorney General Moody Urges Older Floridians to Watch Out for Fraud Ahead of National Senior Citizens Day

Ahead of National Senior Citizens Day, Attorney General Moody is asking older Floridians to watch out for fraud. Florida is home to more than 5.5 million seniors. Attorney General Moody is highlighting efforts to protect these Floridians from fraudulent schemes. After taking office in 2019, Attorney General Moody launched Florida's Senior Protection Team, an intra-agency group of experts working together to fight fraud. Last year, the team secured more than \$1 million in financial relief for Florida seniors.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Florida may be known as the Sunshine State, but we are also a silver state—and we prioritize protecting those who choose to live out their golden years here. Ahead of National Senior Citizens Day, we're asking older Floridians to watch out for fraud and highlighting efforts to help seniors avoid falling victim."

Attorney General Moody's Senior Protection Team consists of members from the Office of Statewide Prosecution, Consumer Protection Division and Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Together, the team fights elder abuse and fraud as well as develops strategies to help seniors avoid falling victim to scammers or criminals.



Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis Announce Hope Florida Expansion

SARASOTA, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis announced “Activate Hope,” an expansion of Hope Florida to serve Floridians recovering from the impacts of disasters. Serving as the emergency response arm for the Hope Florida initiative, Activate Hope pulls together the private sector, nonprofits, and government resources to help Floridians get back on their feet following disaster. Activate Hope helps connect Floridians with outside resources to provide food, household goods, home repairs, and more.

“The state of Florida leads the nation in storm preparation and disaster response,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “The launch of Activate Hope through Hope Florida and the Florida Division of Emergency Management will enable us to strengthen our recovery efforts and rebuild stronger communities by utilizing the existing Hope Florida network to help those impacted by disasters find the help they need.”

“With today’s launch of Activate Hope, we can now bring Hope Florida directly to a community in exceptional need—like those dealing with the impacts of a storm,” said First Lady Casey DeSantis. “This new Hope Florida expansion will ensure that in the future, Floridians impacted by storms or

other emergency situations can readily connect with Hope Navigators and receive the help, services, and supplies they need. On the flip side, Hope Florida can rally communities and empower them to help their fellow Floridians in need, especially during a disaster.”

“Thanks to the leadership and dedication of Governor and First Lady DeSantis, we prepare our residents and prioritize the resiliency of our communities year-round and with partnerships not seen anywhere else in the nation,” said Florida Division of Emergency Management Executive Director Kevin Guthrie. “Activate Hope is another example of how the state continues to innovate our disaster response and recovery practices, and FDEM is proud to support the recovery of those in need with this program.”

Through Activate Hope, Florida will expand the reach of Hope Florida, adding a box truck and an additional ADA-accessible Hope Bus. This expansion will increase the capacity for Hope Florida to join the efforts of the Florida Division of Emergency Management at their Points of Distribution sites, State Business Recovery Centers, and Multi-Agency Resource Centers across the state. Hope Navigators and volunteers from state agencies will be on-site after a storm to distribute needed supplies, such as food, water, baby supplies, cleaning supplies, etc., and offer Hope Navigation services.

Additionally, Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis announced that a new toll-free Hope Line at 833-GET-HOPE is active today for Floridians seeking help to call. You can call Hope Florida’s Hope Line

to speak with a Hope Navigator who can help identify barriers to success, such as lack of resources, skills, opportunities, or basic necessities. This line will also be used as a part of Activate Hope to help connect Floridians with outside resources to provide food, household goods, home repairs, and more.

Hope Navigators help individuals identify their needs, develop long-term goals, map out a path forward, and work to ensure all sectors of the community have a ‘seat at the table’ to be part of a lasting solution. In two years since Hope Florida’s launch in July 2022, nearly 30,000 Floridians have reduced their reliance upon or are no longer reliant on government assistance—a reduction which is estimated to save the State of Florida nearly \$800 million over the next decade.

Floridians who are in need of support can connect with Hope Florida by visiting www.HopeFlorida.com or calling the Hope Line (833-GET-HOPE). Organizations interested in joining Hope Florida’s Care Portal can visit www.HopeFlorida.com.

Governor DeSantis Appoints Two to the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota District Board of Trustees

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Jaime DiDomenico and Brittany Riner to the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota District Board of Trustees.

Jaime DiDomenico

DiDomenico, of Nokomis, is the Vice President of The Wrench Group, LLC. Active in his community, he currently serves as Treasurer of the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties Board of Directors and Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee County Board of

Directors. DiDomenico earned his bachelor’s degree in management and his master’s degree in accounting from Nova Southeastern University.

Britt Riner

Riner, of Sarasota, is a business and civic leader and currently serves as the President of Liber Consulting. Active in her community, she is currently appointed to the Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers, is a former member of the Sarasota County Public Hospital Board, and the former Chair of the Education Foundation of Sarasota County. Riner earned her bachelor’s degree at Duke University and her master’s degree from Stanford University.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

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FROM THE DESK OF

CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Hurricane Debby Makes - Landfall In Our District

Dear Neighbor,

This last month brought our first serious storm of the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Our first responders and

National Guard troops were prepared and on the ground working to ensure our safety after the storm while linemen from across the southeast got to work quickly to restore power. These folks' service has been tremendously appreciated this week.

I and several members of our team fed dinner to our local linemen earlier this week to thank them, and yesterday, Senator Rubio and I were in Live Oak to thank the National Guardsmen and women who came to Florida's aid. You can take a look at my message to all of those who have been helpful below.

With hurricane recovery top-of-mind, if you are still in need of recovery assistance, please call my team in our Gainesville office at (352) 505-0838. We are here to advocate

for you and provide you with the resources you need to take care of your family, your business, and your property.

Additionally, phone numbers and websites to keep in your back pockets as hurricane season continues are below.

Immediate need for food, water, or shelter? Call the Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767.

Immediate housing need? Text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362 for a FEMA shelter in your area.

Visit FEMA.gov for up-to-date information and resources available from the federal government, or give our office a call at (352) 505-0838.

For the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Disaster Distress Helpline, call 1-800-985-5990.

Stay safe this weekend, and we look forward to hearing from you if we can be of assistance during this hurricane season.

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.

For the Republic

Rep. Kat Cammack, Rep. Jared Moskowitz Lead Florida Colleagues In Bipartisan Letter To President Biden Requesting Revised Presidential Declaration For Emergency Assistance

GAINESVILLE, FL — As Hurricane Debby makes its way across Florida and the southeast this afternoon, Congresswoman Cammack (R-FL-03) and Congressman Jared Moskowitz (D-FL-23) led a letter with their Florida colleagues to President Biden requesting the activation of Public

Assistance Category A (debris removal) in the storm's aftermath.

Florida members on the letter include Sen. Marco Rubio, Rep. Neal Dunn, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, Reps. Vern Buchanan, Rep. Michael Waltz, Rep. Gus Bilirakis, Rep. Bill Posey, Rep. Daniel Webster, Rep. Greg Steube, Rep. Cory Mills, Rep. Carlos Gimenez, Rep. Aaron Bean, Rep. Brian Mast, Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, Rep. Scott Franklin, Rep. John Rutherford, Rep. Matt Gaetz, Rep. Darren Soto, Rep. Maxwell Frost, Rep. Kathy Castor, Rep. Sheila Cherfilus McCormick, Rep. Lois Frankel, Rep. Frederica Wilson, and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

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