



**From the desk of Senator Dennis Baxley---**

I want to thank you, the citizens of District 13, for allowing me to serve and represent you, these past 8 years. Due to senate term limits, I am “termed out”.

It's been a privilege having worked in both the House and the Senate for 20 years. We've addressed a lot of issues, working to

make the lives of the citizens here in the State of Florida economically better, our educational programs stronger, our people safer, and gave incentives to small businesses so they could thrive.

I will be returning to family, community and business activities. I hope to see you when we're out and about.

*Continued page 5*

# Kamala Kamala Kamala

By TomL

All through the eyes of Kamala Harris's and through the brain where she does not use common sense to fix problems. She also is mistaken about almost everything she says. She makes up story's and then thinks their true after a while. She is the danger to our country! She adopts issues that she to talk's about and when she finds it is not popular she changes her stance. Immigration, Abortion, Nato and Ukraine aid, Israel - Gaza War, Taxes, Healthcare, Crime, Climate Change, Fracking, Gun Laws, everything she says or pretends to do is done wrong.

China prefers Kamala to Donald Trump because she is more predictable and more MANAGEABLE! Wow that is the way the Democratic party feels! Manageable China says. Donald Trump says America first! Trump says if the Chinese want to sell product cheap in our country they will have to pay for it with a import tax or Terri!

The first thing I remember about Kamala was she was put in charge of the border. Apparently she did not like that job because she never did it! She did not visit the border for years until there was so much backfire over it she recently went after she was

*Continued page 2*

# Fight, Fight, Fight!



**I will never surrender our mission to keep America Great!**

# Devastated Areas Visited

**Speaker Johnson, Rep. Cammack, and Rep. Dunn speak to members of the local, state, and national media about their visit.**



GAINESVILLE, FL — Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04) joined Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and Congressman Neal Dunn (R-FL-02) for a visit to the areas in North Central Florida devastated by Hurricane Helene.

The group took an aerial tour of the damage, viewing Cedar Key, Suwannee, Horseshoe Beach, and Steinhatchee from

above. Hurricane Helene made landfall last Thursday evening, dumping heavy rain that generated 18 feet of storm surge along the coastal areas in Florida's Big Bend region.

The congressional leaders stopped in Steinhatchee to view the damage on the ground and to visit with local leaders who have been working around the clock to aid in

*Continued page 2*



Kamala

Continued from page 1

reminded by millions of people she in charge. Her and Biden were so busy doing what ever they were doing in the White House. I think let a million people invade our country and in some cases they paid their way, flew them in from other country's paid for their hotel, give them a credit card and lord know what else. With the intent to make them voters.

Kamala said recently that Trump was to tired to campaign, he is slowing down, he is sick she said and he makes three rallies across the country in one day, goes to a baseball game late at night and she takes the day off. There is something going on behind closed doors of the White House!

It's a feel good campaign but you can't sell that after not being able to buy your grocery's, you can't love one other when the government let's you down. Our Governor is on the ball DeSantis. He has made short work of hurricane recovery last year and now while he is trying to help his state recover Kamala wants to come in for a photo op. She said she called DeSantis and he snub her. Well no he did not he was to busy saving lives And to busy to play her game! Florida has it's own private recovery fund. I'll bet Harris would like to get her hand on that to pay more room and board for her illegals.

recently a female race car driver who does not normally get involved in politics said one thing that really registered with me. "Trump is a man among the people!" He walks among them, listen to them and sometimes they come up good ideas. The waitress complaining about paying taxes on tips, or one idea that Tyrus that's on Fox News and is a body guard, and comedian suggested that first responders should not have to pay taxes while they are employed in the type of work. Trump responded I have never heard of that, good idea! He did not promise to do that yet but's it on the back burner. The seed has been planted. You go Tyrus! He is a witty guy!

**Devastated Area**

*Continued from page 1*

initial cleanup efforts. The lawmakers also spoke with members of local, state, and national media, sharing important updates about recovery efforts and what more Congress can and should do to help the communities devastated by the storm.

Speaker Mike Johnson told members of local, state, and national press during a stop in Steinhatchee: "I think this has been an extraordinary effort by Florida, the state and local officials. It's just really inspiring to see how well it's been covered and how much the community is rolling up its sleeves and working together. Here in this community, it would inspire the entire country to see how they're really banded together. They're undeterred. This is a very resilient community of people. That's the best of America. We have this disaster now that's around the country. We have people in North Carolina still stranded in their homes in the mountains, and people in Georgia and a number of other states that have been terribly affected by this storm. So, Congress is on the ground, the representatives who represent all those districts are there with their constituents, with their people trying to help, and we will do what's necessary to make sure that Americans are taken care of."

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## Kevin Sheilley OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



If you have lived in Ocala for more than a decade, then you probably know our community's story of bouncing back from the Great Recession in 2007-08. If you are newer to the area since then (and more than

with local government and education partners made an intentional effort to turn the tide in 2012 with the creation of the CEP with the merger of the Chamber of Commerce with the Economic Development Council. While there were a number of goals, the three top goals were to 1) to create more jobs which 2) pay wages higher than the current county median and 3) resulted in the significant private investment in the community.

100,000 people have moved here over the last decade), it is important history to know.

In the early 2000's, our community was truly a boomtown. Everyone was a builder, developer, or realtor and we were building and flipping houses like nobody's business. Unfortunately, it was nobody's business. No one was actually living in many of the houses, and we had stopped building a real economy to support the growth. When the Great Recession happened, arguably no community in our country was more negatively impacted than Ocala. Overnight, the County and School System lost 40% of their revenue, wages stagnated, and we began a period of seven years of double-digit unemployment. SEVEN YEARS!

The business community in partnership

Over the last 12 years, those goals have been overwhelmingly met. Just through the efforts of the CEP, more than 13,000 new jobs have been announced in our community from new and expanding primary employers. Not only have we created more jobs but the wages these jobs pay has significantly boosted the area's median wage. Over the last decade, the US median wage has increased 44% but, in our community, it is up 65%. The capital investment by these companies into our community exceeds \$2.3 billion.

Some may ask why the last metric is important. One, it represents dollars spent on land, building, and equipment in our community – dollars which are getting turned over and benefiting other local

businesses who in turn are spending those dollars on additional staff, equipment, and facilities. Perhaps more importantly, it represents investments which lead to increased tax revenue for local governments without increasing property tax rates.

Our community has bounced back and

bounced back stronger from the Great Recession. Staying focused on building a diverse, sustainable economy has been the key to our community's resurgence and must continue to be the focus if we do not want to return to the dark days of high unemployment, stagnant wages, and lost revenue.



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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. If you want to make contact with the newspaper / Tom Loury email [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

PUBLISHER’S NOTES



According to the internet FBI has agreed to pay a total of 34 women who claimed sexual discrimination and harassment at the FBI training academy. The plaintiffs were dismissed from the FBI's Quantico training academy in Virginia between 2019 and 2020.

Shockingly, this isn't the first substantial settlement; it comes on the heels of a \$138.7 million settlement related to mishandled sexual assault allegations against a sports doctor. The FBI's agreement to this settlement signifies a long-overdue acknowledgment of systemic injustices faced by these women.

Despite reforms, public confidence in the FBI remains shaken, given past and ongoing revelations of misconduct.

Is Governor DeSantis snubbing Kamala Harris by not accepting her phone calls. Some think he is not talking to her because she showed up a week to late! Others say she is just trying to grab a headline. DeSantis says he is to busy to play political games, we are trying to rescue people, she did not show up because she was at a fund raiser in California, now a week later she shows up? The same thing happened in the aftermath of Helene that killed hundreds of people and the death toll is still rising. Finally after the public opinion was so over whelming they showed up. Meanwhile Miorcus says we are running out of disaster funds. They spent a lot of that fund to house the illegals.

DeSantis is busy trying to save lives, rebuild infrastructure in Florida, who thanks to the Governor's private rescue fund. They don't have to wait on the slow moving Federal Government. I don't know what is going to happen to Florida with the rush of people coming here?

A glimmer of hope came down the mountain when relief pack mules appeared with badly need supply's. Pack mules from a pack mule ranch came down the mountain, with about 200 lbs of supplies per mule. The same time the Cajun Navy 2016 also showed up to help. This happened at one location called Black Mountain. The mules brought in badly needed insulin and assorted survival items. It really proves that with ingenuity lives can be saved in the aftermath of a disaster

The Mountain Mule Packers, based in Mount Ulla North Carolina, with survival story's are coming out of the affected area. The Federal Government did not show up for a week. We saw on the news where political figures and private individuals hired helicopters to bring food and take out the injured. Biden finally showed and \claimed he was in on it. When asked by a reporter what do they need? He said they have everything they need yet no one saw federal help anywhere!. The next thing we hear is FEMA does not have enough money for a second hurricane because they appropriated FEMA money to house the illegals. Now United Sates Citizens must suffer because of

This poor management and at the same time spending money that does not belong to them. VOTE TRUMP & Help keep him alive!

According to the reports Zuckerberg admits that the Biden /Harris administration team repeatedly pressured Facebook (his company) to take down certain COVID-19 content. He said he thought the government

pressure was wrong and and that he regret's that I did not put up more resistance. So the truth comes out that what OUR government is trying to control free speech. They work for us we do not work for them!

Kamala Harris has survived another attempt of a star reporter trying to interview her! Secret Service stoped them. Good job the truth was at risk of coming out!

Kamala Harris vows to, after she is elected, that she will build a system that will focus

on building a orderly pathway to citizenship for the illegals so they can vote in elections.

Kamala says immigrant's should not have to live in fear of being deported. I say they were not afraid to come across our border illegally, why should they fear anyone that gives them free money, food, lodging, children education free everything and putting our Veterans out on the street! I will never forgive Biden & Harris for doing that. So remember when you go to vote, one of Kamala's priorities is to lead the charge to citizenship for the illegals for the purpose of voting rights.

One last thing...I believe that all these talented famous people who live in a bubble (California) lets their mouth over load their talent! A famous singer (Bruce) recently came out and said Donald Trump is a danger to our country. I'll never listen to his music again he is listening to

liars who are afraid of being exposed. They don't want to take their hand out of the Governments pocket. What say you? [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for December

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, November 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, November 27th

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

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

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Email: [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

The "Ocala DownTown" (Newspaper) [www.OcalaDownTown.com](http://www.OcalaDownTown.com) (Online Product) and the Seniors Voice of Ocala (Newspaper) and [www.SeniorsVoiceofOcala.com](http://www.SeniorsVoiceofOcala.com) are owned and operated by TomL Publishing LLC, a sole proprietor Corp. Its owners, editors, writers, composers, printers and publishers are not responsible or liable for typographical errors, misinformation, misprints, and the like, unintentionally contained herein. All letter hard copies or online received become the property of TomL Publishing LLC and may be reproduced without further consent. All above are independent contractors.

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



(Continued from page 1)

Onward & Upward, Senator Dennis Baxley

Senate District 13 .....Publishers Note.....

Definition of term ed out means ... Dennis Baxley's was at the

end of a term and could not run again.

Some history from the internet

2022-2024. Senator Dennis Baxley. Party: Republican. Committee Assignments. Agriculture · Appropriations · Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil ...

Senator Dennis Baxley is a Conservative Republican who stands on the foundation of Family, Freedom and Faith.

Distinguished Advocate Award (Florida Chamber of Commerce Inc.) (May 2021)

Champion for Business (Associated Industries of Florida) (2020)

Distinguished Advocate Award (Florida Chamber of Commerce Inc.) (April 2018)

Friend of the Sheriff Award (Florida Sheriffs Association) (July 2017)

Legislative Appreciation Award (Florida League of Cities) (April 2016)

Legislative Leadership Award (Florida Sheriffs Association) (Oct. 2011)

Senate Agriculture Committee

Senate Appropriations Committee

Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee

Senate Rules Committee

Florida Senate (Nov. 8, 2022-) R Senator, District 13

Florida Senate (Nov. 9, 2016-Nov. 7, 2022)

R Senator, District 12

Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 2, 2012-Nov. 8, 2016)

R Representative, District 23

Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 2, 2010-Nov. 19, 2012)

R Representative, District 24

Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 7,



2000-June 26, 2007)

R Representative, District 24

Distinguished Advocate Award (Florida Chamber of Commerce Inc.) (May 2021)

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League of Cities) (April 2016)

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Senate Agriculture Committee

Senate Appropriations Committee

Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee

Senate Community Affairs Committee

Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee

Senate Rules Committee

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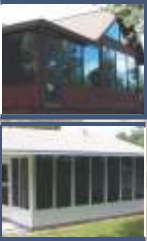
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**Rep. Cammack and Speaker Johnson talk with members of the Florida National Guard before the helicopter tour of damaged areas.**

"I'm grateful to Speaker Johnson for visiting some of Florida's hardest-hit communities today. Seeing the damage and destruction from Hurricane Helene firsthand and hearing directly from the folks who continue to struggle with relief from the federal government was critical,

especially because these same communities also endured Hurricane Idalia and Debby in the last 13 months. Some of those very same folks have yet to receive the disaster assistance they applied for," said Rep. Cammack. "We're going to continue our efforts to get our region back up and running and I'm grateful for the Speaker's commitment to this work."



**Rep. Cammack tours damage in Florida's Third Congressional District the day after Hurricane Helene made landfall.**

"North Florida is tough, and the resilience of our communities in the wake of Hurricane Helene continues to inspire. Local leaders, residents, and federal officials have come together with strength and determination, showing

the grit and dedication needed to rebuild," Congressman Neal Dunn said. "I am honored to host Speaker Johnson as we work together, and I am committed to advocating for aid and providing the support our communities need through every step of the recovery process."

Initial damage estimates from the storm could total over \$160B.

## Water Rescue in Ocala

(OCALA, FL.) Oct. 4, 2024 – On Thursday, Oct. 3, Ocala Fire Rescue responded to reports of a vehicle in a pond within the Fore Ranch subdivision at 9:21 p.m. The call was triggered after residents witnessed a vehicle accelerate through an entry gate, strike the controlled access unit, and veer off the road into a retention pond.

Engine 6 and Rescue 6 arrived at the pond behind SW 54th Circle to find Ocala Police Department officers breaking the glass of a compact SUV immersed in water. Firefighters approached the vehicle and helped the officers extricate its sole occupant.

The driver, who was suffering a medical emergency, was carried to a stretcher, evaluated, and transported to the hospital as a trauma alert.

No other injuries were reported.

Battalion Chief 11, a Safety Officer, and Marion County Fire Rescue also responded.

## Ocala Public Library

Friends of the Ocala Public Library and the Florida Humanities Council welcomes David Morton, presenting "A History of Florida's Film and Television Industry" with a focus on the North Central Florida area. David is a lecturer in the Film & History Department at the University of Central Florida and a Fulbright Scholar. This presentation discusses how Florida became a third coast to the American film and television industries over the past one hundred years. Starting with the first film pioneers in Jacksonville during the 1900s and 1910s to South Florida's television boom during the 2000s and 2010s, Florida has inspired countless exciting stories captured by the camera.

Saturday November 9th, 11am-1230pm, at Headquarters- Ocala Public Library, 2720 E Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, Conference room C.

## Community Calendar & Events

### FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNITY CALENDARS AND LOCAL EVENTS:

Friends of the Ocala Public Library is holding its next clearance book sale beginning on Friday, Dec. 6 (for Friends members only, but memberships are available at the door) from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm, and then opens to the general public on Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 am-2 pm. Sale is held in the Ocala Public Library headquarters meeting rooms, 2720 Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala.

Proceeds of the sale benefit children and adult programs, materials, audio and ebooks, and staff development at Ocala main, Reddick, Ft. McCoy, and Sankofa branches of the Marion County Public Library system.

All childrens books and all paperback books are 25 cents each, and all hardbacks are 50 cents each. Cash and checks only.

## Live on the Square

**Fridays & Saturdays | 6 - 8 PM Downtown Square**

Live music while you shop, dine, & unwind downtown. Are you a fan of live music events? Look no further! The City of Ocala hosts a multitude of sensational live music events throughout the year. If you would like to stay updated on these exciting events, we invite you to sign up for our email newsletter specifically dedicated to live music.

**Live On the Square-- Halfway Hippiie**  
Date: 11/02/2024 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Live On the Square-- Jeff Jarrett**  
Date: 11/08/2024 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Live On the Square-- Becky Baby**  
Date: 11/09/2024 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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SeniorsVoiceOfOcala.com



# Florida Disaster Fund

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis announced the activation of the Florida Disaster Fund to support communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. The fund is a component of the Volunteer Florida Foundation and supports recovery initiatives including Activate Hope.

The Florida Disaster Fund is the State of Florida's official private fund established to assist Florida's communities as they respond to and recover during times of emergency or disaster. In partnership with the public sector, private sector, and other non-governmental organizations, the Florida Disaster Fund supports response and recovery activities.

Donations made to the Disaster Fund are tax-deductible. Donations may be made by visiting [FloridaDisasterFund.org](http://FloridaDisasterFund.org), or by mail to the below address. Checks should be made payable to the Volunteer Florida Foundation and should include "Florida Disaster Fund" in the memo line.

Volunteer Florida Foundation  
Attention: Florida Disaster Fund  
1545 Raymond Diehl Road Suite 250  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Publishers note...DeSantis has it all together! The State of Florida already has a private Disaster Fund for help the citizens survive and rebuild.WOW! They have their stuff together!

whom it has worked with for generations. As the nation's leading brewer and a major American manufacturer, Anheuser-Busch is a significant purchaser of U.S. agricultural products, spending more than \$700 million annually to source nearly all their ingredients from farmers across the United States. This includes 100% of the rice and corn and 99% of the barley in their iconic American beers.

"American farmers are the backbone of this country, and Anheuser-Busch has been deeply connected to the U.S. agricultural community and committed to sourcing high-quality ingredients from U.S. farmers for more than 165 years—that's who we are," said Brendan Whitworth, CEO of Anheuser-Busch. "Their success is our success, and we are proud to lead the beer industry in support of the farmers whose hard work brings our beers to life."

This past spring, Anheuser-Busch became the first company to achieve the new U.S. Farmed certification for its Busch Light, Busch, Bud Light, Budweiser, and Michelob ULTRA beers, indicating that at least 95% of agricultural ingredients are grown by farmers in the United States. A symbol of superior quality and support for American farmers, the U.S. Farmed certification acts as a reminder of American farmers' dedication and encourages customers to choose products made with American grown ingredients. As the first company to be certified, Anheuser-Busch is paving the way for others to support U.S. agriculture by certifying its brands U.S. Farmed.

Today and every day, Anheuser-Busch thanks American growers for their contributions. Happy National Farmer's Day to all and remember to [CHOOSE BEER GROWN HERE](#) to support our nation's farmers!

## Save Money This Holiday Season



### Six Ways To Save Money This Holiday Season

(NAPSI)—Shopping for the holidays is more expensive than ever. With Americans carrying more debt than ever before, many are expected to spend \$18.5 billion using third-party buy now, pay later (BNPL) services for holiday purchases according to data firm Adobe Analytics.

Today's shoppers want and need meaningful ways to save money without having to completely sit out the holiday season or being able to participate in the merriment of gift giving.

To help, here are six tips for saving on essentials that can let you put your hard-earned money toward thoughtful holiday gifts for friends and family:

**Tip 1: Make a list and check it three times**—Take the time before you start surfing the Internet or leave the house to jot down your gift ideas and keep an eye out for Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales, which can help spread out the shopping and hit to your bank account.

**Tip 2: Reduce your monthly expenses**—One way is to eliminate your phone bill completely by signing up for TextNow's free phone service. TextNow makes phone service free, easy, and accessible to all and is the only mobile provider to offer unlimited calling and texting, plus free essential data on the nation's largest 5G network.

TextNow also offers Flexible Data Passes which give consumers the option to add on to a free plan without paying for a long-term contract. This ensures easy access to much-needed data-heavy apps, such as social media, but lets consumers closely monitor usage and budget all within the app. Simply open the app to make all your calls and send texts.

**Tip 3: Use cash instead of credit cards**—This will help you stick to a budget and curb impulse purchases.

**Tip 4: Redeem rewards and leverage coupons**—Savings from reward points, coupons and special offers can really add up, helping your money go even further. As you plan holiday shopping, and look for smart ways to save, a great resource is TextNow Perks which houses a wide range of exclusive in-app deals, discounts, and freebies including McDonald's, HBO Max and Hulu.

So, while you scale back on your phone bill, you also gain exclusive benefits and discounts at your target shopping destinations for the holiday season. Sounds like a win-win. TextNow Perks is free thanks to in-app ads. Just as with streaming services, ads keep the service and opportunity to leverage much-needed holiday perks free.

**Tip 5: Create a realistic budget and opt for homemade or DIY gifts**—Everyone loves a personal gift that's one-of-a-kind. Plus, going this route can help stretch those holiday dollars even further.

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For further facts and stats, visit [www.TextNow.com](http://www.TextNow.com).

## Difficult Diagnosis Sparks Hope



### A Difficult Diagnosis Sparks Hope and Support for Others—Maybe You

(NAPSI)—In 2022, Lisa Reed was eagerly anticipating her 70th birthday. She had plans to travel to Italy and was looking forward to spending more quality time with her grandchildren. But a persistent cough, worsened by a bout of COVID-19, led her to the emergency room in her hometown of Sante Fe. There, a series of tests, including a high-resolution chest CT of her lungs, revealed something unexpected: pulmonary fibrosis (PF).

Symptoms of PF, such as chronic dry cough, fatigue and shortness of breath, can often be confused with other more common illnesses, making it difficult to diagnose. In Reed's case, her chest CT showed the presence of white tissue on her lungs—a characteristic sign of scarring and inflammation.

Like many others diagnosed with PF, Reed had never heard of the disease. Her internet search was startling, revealing that PF causes progressive and irreversible scarring in the lungs. It is part of a family of

*Continued page 12*

## Anheuser-Busch Celebrates



### Anheuser-Busch Celebrates American Growers on National Farmer's Day

(NAPSI)—Behind every sip of Anheuser-Busch's industry-leading beers is a farmer who worked hard to grow the high-quality rice, barley, corn, or hops inside that beer. This National Farmer's Day, Anheuser-Busch is raising a toast to the more than 700 farmers across the country who make our beers possible.

For more than 165 years, Anheuser-Busch has been proudly connected with and committed to American farmers, many of

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## FAIRTax



If you have lived in Ocala for more than a decade, then you probably know our community's story of bouncing back from the Great Recession in 2007-08. If you are newer to the area since then (and more than 100,000 people have moved here over the last decade), it is important history to know.

In the early 2000's, our community was truly a boomtown. Everyone was a builder, developer, or realtor and we were building and flipping houses like nobody's business. Unfortunately, it was nobody's business. No one was actually living in many of the houses, and we had stopped building a real economy to support the growth. When the Great Recession happened, arguably no community in our country was more negatively impacted than Ocala. Overnight, the County and School System lost 40% of their revenue, wages stagnated, and we began a period of seven years of double-digit unemployment. SEVEN YEARS!

The business community in partnership with local government and education partners made an intentional effort to turn the tide in 2012 with the creation of the CEP with the merger of the Chamber of Commerce with the Economic Development Council. While there were a number of goals, the three top goals were to

1) to create more jobs which 2) pay wages higher than the current county median and 3) resulted in the significant private investment in the community.

Over the last 12 years, those goals have been overwhelmingly met. Just through the efforts of the CEP, more than 13,000 new jobs have been announced in our community from new and expanding primary employers. Not only have we created more jobs but the wages these jobs pay has significantly boosted the area's median wage. Over the last decade, the US median wage has increased 44% but, in our community, it is up 65%. The capital investment by these companies into our community exceeds \$2.3 billion.

Some may ask why the last metric is important. One, it represents dollars spent on land, building, and equipment in our community – dollars which are getting turned over and benefiting other local businesses who in turn are spending those dollars on additional staff, equipment, and facilities. Perhaps more importantly, it represents investments which lead to increased tax revenue for local governments without increasing property tax rates.

Our community has bounced back and bounced back stronger from the Great Recession. Staying focused on building a diverse, sustainable economy has been the key to our community's resurgence and must continue to be the focus if we do not want to return to the dark days of high unemployment, stagnant wages, and lost revenue.

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## 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 Xolaitzcuinli, 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.



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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



### NEWSALERT

Attorney General Ashley Moody is taking legal action against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for refusing to verify

immigration records for the State of Florida to ensure voter-roll integrity. Over the course of the Biden-Harris administration, millions of illegal immigrants have flooded into the country. Florida has an interest in ensuring that only American citizens are registered to vote. Recently, the state identified registered voters who may not be U.S. citizens, and DHS refuses to provide information necessary to determine their immigration status. Attorney General Moody is taking legal action to ensure noncitizens are not on the voter rolls.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Voting is a right granted to American citizens—not illegal immigrants or other noncitizens. The Biden-Harris administration has allowed millions of illegal immigrants into the country, and we must ensure that only citizens are on our voter rolls. I am taking legal action against the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Mayorkas to ensure Florida is able to maintain the integrity of our state's voter rolls."

Florida Secretary of State Cory Byrd said, "The Florida Constitution is clear that only citizens can vote in our elections. Florida is calling on the federal government to dismantle the barriers blocking the states

from obtaining critical information needed to prevent non-citizens from voting in our elections. We are going to prevail in our effort to uphold the law and uphold the Constitution's guarantee of one citizen, one vote."

Evidence suggests that, across the country, noncitizens register to vote frequently. To combat noncitizen voting and maintain the integrity of elections, the Florida Department of State requested information to verify immigration records in Florida, something the state does not have the ability to acquire on its own. DHS refuses to comply with these requests. DHS also denied similar requests made by multiple other states.

Under the Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, Congress mandates that the Immigration and Naturalization Service, now part of DHS, shall respond to an inquiry by a federal, state or local government agency, seeking to verify or ascertain the citizenship or immigration status of any individual within the jurisdiction of the agency for any purpose authorized by law, providing the requested verification or status information.

Florida is requesting the court hold unlawful the defendants' failure to provide the state with information to verify the citizenship or immigration status of individuals and compel a response. Florida is also asking for permanent injunctive relief ordering defendants to respond to inquiries made by the state.

### CONSUMERALERT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney

General Ashley Moody is sharing tips with Floridians to avoid potential Federal Emergency Management Agency scams in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Following natural disasters, fraudsters may pose as FEMA representatives and ask for sensitive information or request money in exchange for services. Scammers may also use a target's personal information to apply for a FEMA grant and try to keep the money for themselves.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Imposter scammers may pose as FEMA representatives and try to gain access to storm victims' personal information and federal assistance. Floridians need to be on the lookout for FEMA scams and report suspicious activity immediately."

There are at least two different ways FEMA fraudsters attempt to scam Floridians. One of the schemes consists of scammers posing as FEMA representatives and approaching a victim's home. The imposter may claim to be a housing inspector or other official and attempt to charge the victim for disaster assistance, inspections or help filling out an application. They also may request sensitive financial information.

In another scheme, fraudsters already have access to the victim's information. The scammers then apply for a FEMA grant themselves to keep the money.

To avoid falling victim to a FEMA scam, Attorney General Moody is offering the following tips:

Understand that FEMA will never charge applicants for disaster assistance or help fill out applications;

Know that a FEMA representative will not ask for banking information or an individual's nine-digit registration number;

If no application for FEMA assistance is being made but a solicitor claiming to be a FEMA representative offers help with an application, the solicitor is probably a scammer;

### CONSUMERALERT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians who wish to give funds to those affected by Helene and Milton. Helene struck the Big Bend region of the state last month, then traveled inland leaving catastrophic flooding in six states. Milton recently made landfall in Southwest Florida, causing massive power outages and flooding throughout a large portion of the state. Attorney General Moody is reminding anyone wishing to donate to relief efforts to be on guard against scammers who may exploit the disaster for personal gain.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Our state just suffered the one-two punch of two major hurricanes—Helene and Milton. Millions were affected by these disasters. In times of hardship, generous Floridians may desire to give to relief efforts, but this is when scammers can strike. Be cautious when deciding where to donate so that your money can go to the intended cause."

Tips to avoid charity scams in the wake of a disaster include the following:

Check the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance at Give.org or Charity Navigator to determine whether a charity exists and if there are any complaints against an organization before donating;

Research how a charity uses donations;

Refrain from providing personal or financial information to unsolicited calls or emails on behalf of a charity;

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



**Governor Ron DeSantis Awards \$9.5 Million and Other State Assistance to SeaPort Manatee for Repairs After Hurricane Damage**

Governor Ron DeSantis announced the award of \$9.5 million to SeaPort

Manatee to jumpstart its recovery and help repair impacted infrastructure following significant damage caused by Hurricane Milton. SeaPort Manatee is the primary deep-water seaport in Southwest Florida. It receives fuel, fruits and vegetables, appliances, construction materials, and wood for distribution across Southwest Florida and the Southeast.

Following Hurricane Milton, initial damage assessments indicated potential losses of \$225 million at SeaPort Manatee. While many of the port's losses are insured, some components are not. Damage to the port includes the loss of 10 out of 13 on-site warehouses, 3 of the ten port-owned docking facilities, and widespread damage to port offices.

"This action to get SeaPort Manatee back to full operations will benefit the people of Florida, ensure the hardening of our infrastructure for future disasters, and ensure normal life is resumed for Floridians as soon as possible," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Taking action to address these impacts now is imperative to keep Florida on the road to recovery."

In addition to this funding, Governor DeSantis directed several state agencies to step in and assist the port to expedite recovery efforts. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will provide subject

matter experts and skilled workers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will expedite all permits for the immediate rebuild of port infrastructure, and the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) will provide support in navigating the FEMA award process. The Florida National Guard will also provide personnel to reestablish perimeter security and assist in repairing the port fence.

"With the major impact that seaports have on our state's economy and the quality of life for our residents, it's critical that we ensure our seaports are open and fully operational, particularly SeaPort Manatee given the significant damage they sustained following Hurricane Milton," said FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. "Thank you to Governor Ron DeSantis, our state agency partners, and all our seaport partners as we work together to ensure Florida's seaports stay open for business."

For every state dollar invested in seaport infrastructure, the expected return on investment for the state is seven dollars in state and local taxes. In 2023, SeaPort Manatee supported 42,094 U.S. jobs, generated \$275 million in state and local taxes, and contributed \$7.3 billion in economic value to the U.S. economy.

**Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis Make Awards Through the Florida Disaster Fund to Nonprofits Assisting with Storm Relief and School Districts Affected by Hurricane Milton**

Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis visited Tampa Bay to highlight Hope Florida and award \$1,000,000 through the Florida Disaster Fund to support Hope Florida partners

helping Floridians recover from the storms. These funds will be utilized by nonprofit organizations doing good work in storm-impacted communities.

These donations will support organizations serving hot meals and food to disaster-affected communities, help moms and children with immediate needs after disasters, and assist foster kids, families, individuals with unique abilities, and seniors.

The Governor also spoke in Sarasota, where he announced the award of \$100,000 from the Florida Disaster Fund to education foundations in the five counties directly impacted by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Those counties are:

- Hillsborough County
- Manatee County
- Pasco County
- Pinellas County
- Sarasota County

These funds will be used to provide resources to teachers, create new learning opportunities for students, and work to ensure every Floridian has the best chance for educational success in the wake of these storms.

This was also done previously following Hurricane Helene. To learn more [click here](#).

"Today I was pleased to make awards from the Florida Disaster Fund totaling \$1.5 million to nonprofits that are serving Floridians who were hurt by the storms and to education organizations helping to ensure that our schools are back in session," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Just one week after Hurricane Milton made landfall, all schools are open, power is restored, and communities are well on the road to recovery. Thank you

to the linemen, volunteers, educators, and many others who helped make this feat possible."

"Through the leadership of Governor and First Lady DeSantis, our state has been able to aide individuals impacted by the recent storms and get Floridians back on their feet. We wouldn't be able to accomplish this without the support of our Hope Florida partners," said Secretary Shevaun Harris. "It was amazing getting to see some of our strongest non-profit partners get recognized for their efforts this morning."

"Florida has worked with Superintendents to meet their critical needs following Hurricane Milton and get all Florida students back in class just one week after the storm made landfall," said Commissioner Manny Diaz Jr. "School is the best place for students after a storm, and I am grateful to the Governor for his leadership and support in Hurricane Milton recovery efforts."

The Activate Hope expansion deploys Hope Buses and Navigators to communities hit by disasters, such as those recently impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, to distribute critical supplies and provide recovery resources for residents and businesses.

In response to recent hurricanes, Hope Florida Buses have been made available to impacted residents at state resource sites, including Points of Distribution, State Business Recovery Centers, and Multi-Agency Resource Centers in the Tampa Bay and Big Bend regions. Hope Navigators and volunteers have provided service and assistance to more than 25,000 Floridians impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

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FROM THE DESK OF

## CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



### Cleaning Up After Helene & Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Our communities in Florida's Third have continued to recover from Hurricane Helene.

Our district team has been working around the clock, visiting several counties devastated by the storm as our neighbors begin filing for FEMA, SBA, and USDA assistance. If you are in need of any help or resources as you navigate the process, please contact us. Reach out to us via email at

kcammack.hurricane@mail.house.gov or via phone at (352) 505-0838 for more information.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! I'm proud to serve as the Republican Co-Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus as we advocate for women's health care and breast cancer awareness. Annual screenings are the key to catching cancer early, so let this serve as your reminder to schedule those mammograms and take charge of your health. If you or a loved one is fighting breast cancer, know you are never alone and we stand with you in the fight.

Next week begins another district work period and I look forward to seeing many of you during our stops across the area. We hope to see you soon!

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.

### Florida Colleagues To POTUS: Expedite Resources To Floridians

GAINESVILLE, FL — Hurricane Helene made landfall as a Category 4 storm, causing catastrophic damage along Florida's Gulf Coast. It's crucial for the federal government to expedite state-requested resources and authorize key policy flexibilities in order for Floridians to make a swift recovery.

U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), and Florida colleagues sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging the direction of federal agencies to expedite requested resources and implement emergency policy flexibilities to help the people of Florida.

"Mr. President: In the wake of Hurricane Helene, we write to urge you to direct federal agencies to expedite state-requested resources and actions and to implement precedent emergency policy flexibilities to facilitate a seamless federal response."

### Rep. Cammack Provides Update On Legislative Actions To Support Hurricane Helene Recovery

GAINESVILLE, FL — Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack provided an update on legislative efforts to support recovery from Hurricane Helene in North Central Florida.

On Saturday, Rep. Cammack joined the Florida delegation in a letter to President

Biden expressing support for Governor DeSantis' expedited request for a Major Disaster Declaration (DR). President Biden subsequently approved the Major Disaster Declaration providing assistance the same day. Read the letter.

On Monday, Rep. Cammack sent a letter to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack highlighting the disparate rainfall data used by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) compared to the rainfall data from local water management districts in the State of Florida. The data impact producers' access to disaster payments following storms. Read the letter to Secretary Vilsack.

On Tuesday, Rep. Cammack sent a letter to President Biden requesting that Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties be included in the Major Disaster Declaration. The four counties were originally included in Governor DeSantis' request for an expedited Major Disaster Declaration but were not included in the President's declaration. Read the letter to President Biden

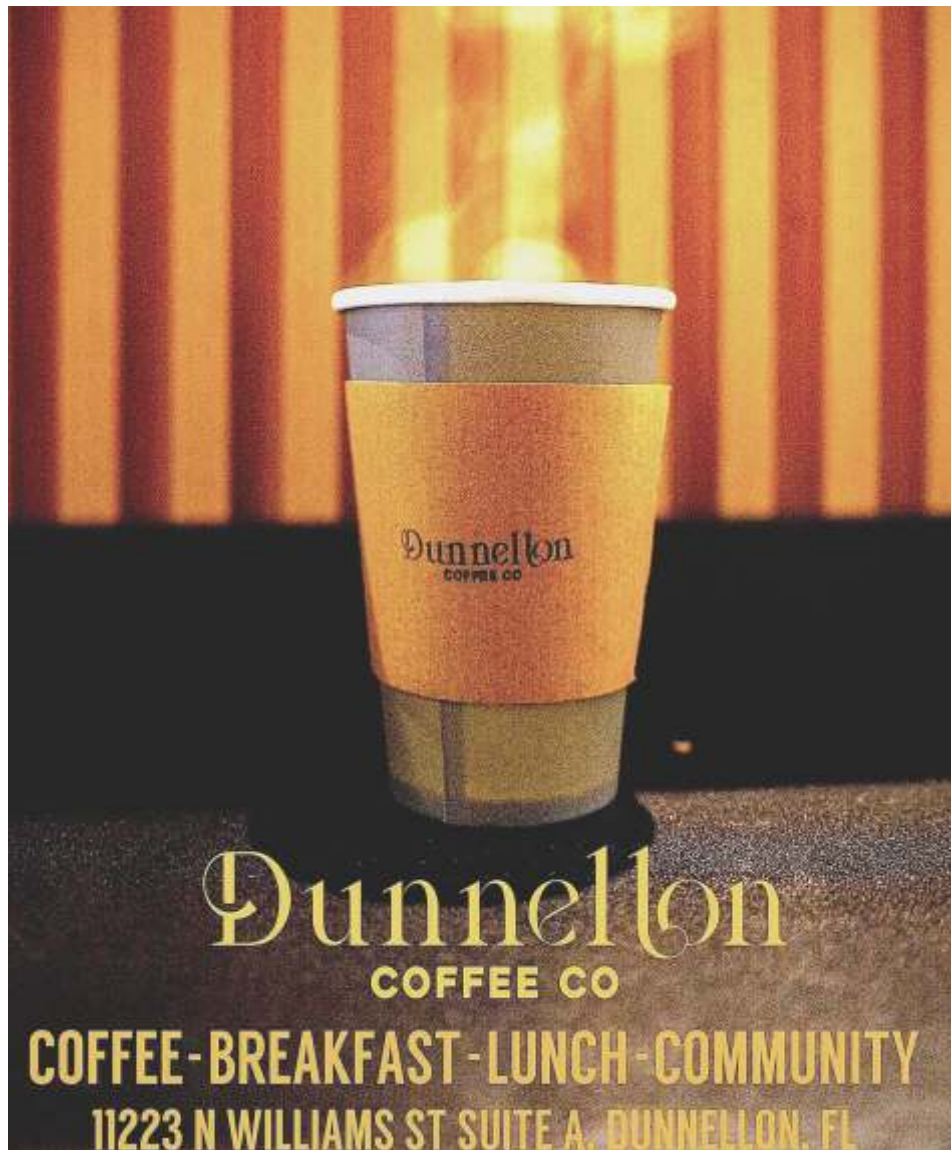
### Rep. Cammack Leads Colleagues In Letter To Sec. Vilsack About Hurricane Helene

GAINESVILLE, FL — Congresswoman Kat Cammack led 14 of her colleagues in a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack about needed USDA actions to support farmers and rural communities devastated by Hurricane Helene. The letter requests FSA strike teams, the use of more accurate rainfall data, and disaster aid provided through block grants.

Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida's Big Bend region at the end of September and made its way through the southeastern United States, impacting Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee.

"We write to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take swift action to support our farmers and rural communities affected by Hurricane Helene. Specifically, we request that the USDA deploy Farm Service Agency (FSA) strike teams to the hardest-hit areas, providing much-needed personnel to assist with recovery efforts. Additionally, we urge the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to collaborate with local stakeholders and utilize regional rainfall data to ensure more accurate assessments for damage and crop insurance claims. Finally, we request that USDA disaster aid be provided to affected states through block grants. This will allow states the flexibility to administer relief tailored to the specific needs of their producers and communities. These actions will be critical to ensuring a swift and effective recovery for our agricultural communities," write the lawmakers in the letter.

Florida Reps. Neal Dunn, Aaron Bean, Gus Bilirakis, Byron Donalds, Scott Franklin, Laurel Lee, Cory Mills, Mike Waltz, and Daniel Webster joined Rep. Cammack on the letter. Reps. Rick Allen, Austin Scott, and Buddy Carter of Georgia, Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, and Morgan Griffith of Virginia also joined.



## Hope

*Continued from page 7*

over 200 interstitial lung diseases (ILD) that affect more than 250,000 Americans.

Fortunately, Reed was diagnosed in the early stages of the disease. She quickly immersed herself in learning everything she could about PF. She discovered the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation's (PFF) website, absorbing fact sheets, watching webinars, and exploring clinical trials and opportunities to get involved.

A friend of Reed's who is a nurse practitioner suggested she reach out to the ILD clinic at National Jewish Hospital in Denver, a PFF Care Center Network site. She now receives care there from a multidisciplinary team of doctors including a pulmonologist, rheumatologist, cardiologist, and oncologist. She began an antifibrotic treatment to slow the progression of the disease.

As Reed started her treatment, her family received more unexpected news—both of her brothers were also diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis. The siblings believe their condition is familial, with each of them at different stages of the disease. One of her brothers has since undergone a double lung transplant and is doing well.

Reed firmly believes that self-advocacy is essential in getting the right care as quickly as possible. She has volunteered for clinical trials, participates in online support groups, and actively engages with the PFF. Throughout her journey, Reed has found the PFF to be a vital resource for trusted information and tremendous support.

"Whether it's getting the right diagnosis, learning what treatments are available, or

finding resources for caregivers, there are answers and support," she said. "It's impressive and wonderful."

Now, Reed volunteers as a PFF Ambassador, sharing her story and helping others along their journeys. "The way to help myself is to help others," she says.

Reed plans to attend a virtual PFF Education Symposium. She looks forward to learning about the latest research studies, how to live better with PF, and to connect with others navigating life with PF.

"Whether you're newly diagnosed, or you've been living with PF for years, no one should face this journey alone," said Reed. "There are so many ways we can help each other, both big and small. And there's a whole community of people, resources, and support ready to help you through the PFF."

The PFF Education Symposium is a virtual conference taking place Nov. 7-8. To learn more about PF and to register for the Symposium, visit [pulmonaryfibrosis.org/symposium](https://pulmonaryfibrosis.org/symposium).

# Connect with your community

