



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.

Onward & Upward,  
Senator Dennis Baxley  
Senate District 13

Publishers Note.....

Definition of termed 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

Continued page 3

# Fight, Fight, Fight!



I will never surrender our mission to keep America Great!

## 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 Terrif!

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 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.

Continued page 2

## 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.

Continued page 2

# Kamala *Continued from page 1*

"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!

# Devestation *Continued from page 1*

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 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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then click on  
back-issues

# Lake County Detention Center

## Public Booking Log

See the frequently updated public booking log of those recently charged in Lake County. Go to:  
<http://tomlpublishing.com/category/villages-news/lady-lake-police-dept/>  
 Or go to [Tomlpublishing.com](http://Tomlpublishing.com) and click on Lake County Sheriff on

Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Sheriffs Association (July 2017)  
Legislative Appreciation Award (Florida League of Cities) (April 2016)  
Legislative Leadership Award (Florida Sheriffs Association) (Oct. 2011)

Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 7, 2000-June 26, 2007)  
R Representative, District 24  
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. 20, 2012-Nov. 8, 2016)  
R Representative, District 23  
Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 2, 2010-Nov. 19, 2012)  
R Representative, District 24



(Florida Sheriffs Association) (Oct. 2011)  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
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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. 20, 2012-Nov. 8, 2016)  
R Representative, District 23  
Florida House of Representatives (Nov. 2, 2010-Nov. 19, 2012)  
R Representative, District 24

National Coffee With a Cop Day

The community celebrated National Coffee with a Cop Day

LADY LAKE - The Lady Lake Police Department, in partnership with McDonald's, participated in Coffee with a Cop to celebrate National Coffee with a Cop Day. The community was invited to join the department for a free hot or iced premium roast coffee at McDonald's in Lady Lake.

The public had the opportunity to join Chief Steve Hunt and several officers for a casual chat with no agenda. The goal is to

allow residents and police officers to get to know each other and discover mutual goals for the community in which they live in and serve.

The mission of Coffee with a Cop is to break down the barriers between police officers and residents. Coffee with a Cop is dedicated to encouraging communication and positive interactions between law enforcement agencies and the public. Coffee with a Cop Day is celebrated nationwide and is one of the most



successful community-oriented policing programs in the country. McDonald's supports local law enforcement agencies and is committed to being a safe community

center in local service areas.

To stay up to date with Town news and events, read the Lady Lake Magazine [ladylakemagazine.com](http://ladylakemagazine.com) OR Tomlpublishing.com



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Tom Lory 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



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 [n 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? floury@att.net

**Newspaper Deadlines**  
*Editorial & Ad Copy for December*  
**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**  
**Noon, November 22nd**  
**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**  
**12am, November 27th**

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**Wednesday, Nov 20, 12:30pm**  
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Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist  
Resident of The Villages

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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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**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

**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."

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.

For assistance with recovery resources from Hurricane Helene, visit [cammack.house.gov](http://cammack.house.gov) or call (352) 505-0838.

## **Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?**

- **Networking Opportunities**- Connect with business professionals
- **Visibility** - Get noticed in your community
- **Credibility**- Membership raises your business reputation
- **Discounts**- Take advantage of member- only discounts
- **Learning**- Member only speaker series on business topics
- **Give Back**- Volunteer on committees to help the community

**Contact us today to be added to our email list and stay connected to local businesses & events!**



## **A Storybook Christmas Parade**

LADY LAKE - The Town of Lady Lake is announcing its annual Christmas parade, taking place on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 10 a.m. at Old Dixie Highway. This year's theme, "A Storybook Christmas," welcomes participants to bring their favorite holiday tales to life through floats, costumes, and performances.

"Lady Lake's charming smalltown annual Christmas parade will bring beloved holiday tales to life with festive floats and cheerful music," said Lady Lake Events Coordinator Amy Alicea. "Join us as the community comes together to celebrate the magic of the season in this heartwarming annual tradition!"

The Town is currently seeking participants who wish to be part of this festive event. To ensure an engaging parade experience for our community, the number of entries will be limited to a maximum of 75 units. Participants are encouraged to consider the following elements in their parade entries: overall theme, artistic beauty, use of color, animation, special effects, originality, rider personnel, marching or dancing performance, visual appearance, and, most importantly, holiday spirit!

Applications are due no later than Nov. 15, 2024. Participation is free, but all applications must be submitted on time and meet the selection criteria to be considered.

"Our goal is to provide an engaging, entertaining and family-friendly parade our whole community can enjoy," said Alicea.

For more information or to submit your application, visit Parks & Recreation or contact Amy Alicea at [events@ladylake.org](mailto:events@ladylake.org) or 352-205-2826.

Elisha Pappacoda

# LAKE COUNTY, FL EVENTS

## Nov 4 Florida Friendly Fruit Trees (UF/IFAS Master Gardener)

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

In Florida, we are fortunate to have a climate that allows us to grow some pretty interesting plants. Fruit trees are a popular option for many.

## Nov 6 Evening Wildlife Bike Ride

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead in Montverde

Bring your bicycle and learn about the flora and fauna of Lake Apopka as you peddle away with Park Staff on an 8.5 mile round trip bike ride

## Nov 6 Ecosystem Warriors

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

Learn about aquatic habitats while hiking on the wetland boardwalk. Ages: 6th - 8th grade. Limit 15. Reservations required.

## Nov 6 Farm to Table - A Seasonally Inspired Side

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Great Scott Farms in Mount Dora

A recipe demo and sampling is included.

## Nov 8 Discover Leesburg

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg  
Discover Leesburg: Join us every 2nd Friday evening of the month on Towne Square in Downtown Leesburg for an unforgettable experience. Mark your agenda.

## Nov 9 Bugs and Bunnies

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PEAR Park (Nature Center/WCA) in Leesburg  
Explore the reserve with a staff naturalist while learning about the site residents.

## Nov 9 Veterans Day Parade

4:00 PM - 12:00 AM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg  
Bring your family and friends to honor our brave veterans at the Veterans Day Parade! On Saturday, November 9th, 2024, at 11 AM, Downtown Leesburg

## Nov 9 Flapjack 5K

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg  
Race through downtown Leesburg in the Flapjack 5K making your way to the finish line at Pancake-Palooza!

## Nov 9 The Florida Run @ Lake Louisa 5k, 10k, half marathon

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont  
Embark on a thrilling trail-running adventure amidst the natural splendor of Lake Louisa State Park in the heart of sunny Florida. The half marathon

## Nov 10 Guitars and Cars

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora  
Guitars (Big Al's Lake County Musicians

Swapmeet) Buy-Sell-Trade Tons of great gear and deals Central Florida Blues Lovers' Jam at noon Cars Car

## Nov 12 Glass Blowing and Lamp Work Demonstration with Melody Louis

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Umatilla Public Library in Umatilla 11/12/23  
Watch artist Melody Louis demonstrate the art of lamp work and glass blowing. Limited seating. Pre-register.

## Nov 13 Stagger Mud Run Paddling Adventure

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Powell's Campground in Astor  
Launching from Powell's campground in Astor, this guided trip will take paddlers into Lake Dexter and Stager Mud Lake. The shorelines offer scenic vista.

## Nov 13 Water Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hickory Point in Tavares  
Join us for an educational boardwalk tour of the wetlands at Hickory Point. Take home a "Wetlands" book. Ages: Pre K - 5th grade. Limit 15. Reservations required.

## Nov 13 Kids Games

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Umatilla Public Library in Umatilla  
Play games with friends. KG - 5th grade.

## Nov 13 Farm to Table - Blend it with Black Eyed Peas

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Great Scott Farms in Mount Dora  
A recipe demo and sampling is included.

## Nov 15 After Dark Hike

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Pine Meadows

Conservation Area in Eustis  
Bring your flashlight, headlamp and insect repellent to see what wildlife is active in the park after everyone goes home and the sun goes down.

## Nov 15 Antique Extravaganza

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora  
Come and shop hundreds of vendors both indoors and outdoors with antiques, collectibles, vintage items, and much more. Free Parking, Pet Friendly

## Nov 16 Pancake Palooza - The Ultimate Brunchfest!

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg  
Join the City of Leesburg and 98.9 WMMO on November 16th from 10am-4pm for Pancake-Palooza, the ultimate brunch fest! Featuring live music, mimosas, and more.

## Nov 16 Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Pasture Reserve in Groveland  
Assist park staff with surveying the birds and butterflies that inhabit Lake County's conservation lands.

## Nov 28 Thanksgiving Grand Brunch Buffet

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mission Resort + Club in Howey-in-the-Hills  
Our annual Thanksgiving Grand Brunch Buffet will feature a mouthwatering array of festive dishes and delectable treats that make for a truly memorable



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# Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon

The Lady Lake Chamber of commerce had it's monthly networking luncheon at the Glenview Champions Country Club. The restaurant was full the food was good as usual. The luncheons are held so that businesses can network, maybe do business

or set up appointments.

It has been very successful. Pictures on the center fold of this paper are a sample of people attending. Lots of door prizes were won. A fun day was had by all.



# Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



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Adult



# NOVEMBER



Lady Lake Library

Hours:

Monday: 9am-7pm  
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm  
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
 Closed: November 11, 28, and 29

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>				 1
 4	5	6 SHINE 2-4pm	7 Paint with Marsha (Sign up required) @ 2-4pm	8
11 <b>Closed for Veterans Day!</b>	12 Book Discussion @ 2-4pm	13 SHINE 2-4pm	14 Android 101 (Sign up required) @ 2pm	15
18	19	20 Authors Round Table @ 2-4pm SHINE 2-4pm	21 Bingo! @2-3:30pm (Sign up required)	22 Crochet and Knitting Hangout @ 3-4:30pm
25 	26 Board Games Meetup! @2-4pm sign up required	27 SHINE 2-4pm	28 29 <b>Closed for Thanksgiving and the following Friday (28rd and 29th). Happy Thanksgiving from us to you! Will Reopen Monday, Dec. 2</b>	

Youth





# NOVEMBER



Lady Lake Library

Hours:

Monday: 9am-7pm  
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm  
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
 Closed: November 11, 28, and 29

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>November is DINOvember in the youth library. They can participate in a scavenger hunt, adopt a dinosaur and more!</b>				1 Lego Masters @ 3:30pm
4 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	5 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	6 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	7 	8 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
11 <b>Closed for Veterans Day!</b>	12 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	13 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	14 Meet and Greet K-9 Miles @ 3:30pm	15 Lego Masters @ 3:30pm
18 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	19 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Craft with a Cop @ 3:30pm	20 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	21 	22 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
25 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	26 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	27 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	28 29 <b>Closed for Thanksgiving and the following Friday (28rd and 29th). Happy Thanksgiving from us to you! Will Reopen Monday, Dec. 2</b>	

## 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 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!

## 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 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).



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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](mailto: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 precedented 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.

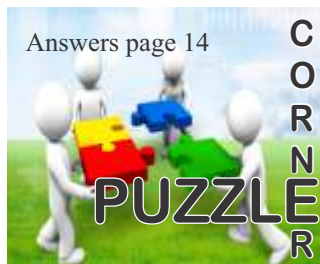
"We write to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture to take swift action to support our farmers and rural communities affected by Hurricane Helene. Specifically, we request that the USDA deploy Farm Service Agency (FSA) strike teams to the hardest-hit areas, providing much-needed personnel to 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.

Bringing our community together...  
Call/Email Tom: 352-804-1223  
[tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

Ocala Downtown  
Seniors Voice of Ocala  
Village Spectator  
Lady Lake Magazine



CORNER PUZZLER

Across

1. "Good buddy" sayer
5. Ali \_\_\_\_
9. Above average grade
14. Scratch the surface?
15. Invitation request
16. Poker betting option
17. Ear-related
18. General helper
19. Get down from there?
20. Triumph convincingly
23. Fighting words?
24. \_\_\_\_ rest (settles)
28. Much-studied T.
29. Ready for surgery
31. Potter or Klink (Abbr.)
32. Referees throw them
35. Go off course
36. Loch of note
37. Become unsteady
40. Web addresses, initially
41. Small scraps
42. "To clarify . . ."

43. \_\_\_\_-cone (summer treat)
44. "The \_\_\_\_ the limit!"
45. Tavern order
46. Southernmost U.S. state
48. Showed appreciation, in a way
52. Finish up
55. Electronic component
58. Wander about
59. Nick and Nora's pooch
60. "Gay Purr-ee" composer Harold
61. Really digging
62. Four, six or seven attachment
63. Title pages?
64. Trueheart of the comics
65. Makes a boo-boo

Down

1. Oscar winner Russell
2. Drive home a run
3. Barely making (with "out")
4. Battery boosts
5. Taste test label
6. Shakespearean stage device
7. Certain briefs, briefly
8. Was not original
9. Concoct
10. It may be rolled or sprayed on
11. It's flipped when you flip
12. Take advantage of
13. Sun. message
21. Playground retort
22. Type of house or glasses
25. Display of temper
26. Famous 22-Down
27. Mary-Kate or Ashley
29. They're a nuisance
30. Graycoats
32. Straight beater
33. Doone of Exmoor
34. Do \_\_\_\_ burn (seethe)
35. Jolly, to the British
36. Office plaque
38. Big name in mobile phones
39. Purple shade
44. Warning signals
45. Los \_\_\_\_, New Mexico
47. Interjected
48. Checked items
49. Baffling puzzle
50. Banana oil, for one
51. List makers?
53. Legal order
54. Hearing test sound
55. '50s sitcom staple
56. Rage
57. It may be heard after a charge

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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## FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



### AG Moody Recognizes Frontline Tampa Police Officers with Thin Line Tribute for Exemplary Hurricane Response

TALLAHASSEE,

Fl.—Attorney General Ashley Moody recognized the Tampa Police Department's frontline officers for their tireless efforts during Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. At TPD's final Hurricane Deployment Roll Call Wednesday, Attorney General Moody honored the officers with a Thin Line Tribute. The tribute honors the commitment of the TPD frontline officers who worked throughout the natural disasters to keep Tampa safe.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Florida was hit by not one, but two ferocious storms within two weeks. Unfazed, our frontline law enforcement officers worked before, during and in the aftermath of both major hurricanes, all in an effort to protect Floridians and help our state recover—some neglecting their own property and personal safety to serve the citizens of Tampa. On behalf of the state of Florida, I want to say thank you to these selfless heroes with our Thin Line Tribute."

Tampa Police Chief Lee Bercaw said, "This public roll call officially ending our hurricane deployment is an opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who faithfully served the community during Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Their commitment to public safety made a positive difference in our preparation, response and recovery efforts. While we have seen significant progress, we know many are still recovering from the storms. We remain committed to providing ongoing assistance, supporting those affected and continuing our work of making Tampa safer, together."

TPD played a critical role in coordinating evacuation efforts prior to the landfall of Milton. All 1,000 TPD law enforcement officers assisted in safely evacuating approximately 200,000 citizens. Before, during and after the storm, officers responded to more than 15,000 emergency calls, rescued 135 Tampa citizens and 18 pets, cleaned 141 streets of debris and delivered 5,500 bottles of water and individual meals.

In addition to helping with evacuation efforts, officers conducted rescues. In one instance, officers helped a family in the middle of Hurricane Milton stuck in a home after a falling tree smashed through the roof.

Attorney General Moody launched Thin Line Tribute in 2021 to recognize the daily efforts of frontline officers who work to protect Floridians. Attorney General Moody created Thin Line Tribute to give law enforcement officers the recognition they greatly deserve but may not always receive.

### NEWSALERT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—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; and

Ask solicitors to show identification—FEMA representatives always wear an official government badge to identify themselves.

Report fraud to the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 1(866) 720-5721, or email StopFEMAFraud@fema.dhs.gov.

For more information on scams following hurricanes, visit Scams at a Glance: After the Storm.

### 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; and

Carefully review a charity's name before making a donation. Scammers may try to trick unwary donors with titles that resemble legitimate organizations.

For more tips related to charity scams, view Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance: Charity Scams resource by clicking here.

Floridians can report charity scams to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com.

For additional information about storm-related scams and recovery resources, view Scams at a Glance: After the Storm.

## 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.

# GOVERNOR DESANTIS



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!

## 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

SARASOTA, Fla.— 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.

Floridians in need of support can connect with Hope Florida by visiting [www.HopeFlorida.com](http://www.HopeFlorida.com) or calling the Hope Line (833-GET-HOPE).

Organizations and individuals interested in joining Hope Florida's CarePortal can also visit [www.HopeFlorida.com](http://www.HopeFlorida.com).

Organizations and individuals interested in donating to the Florida Disaster Fund can text DISASTER to 20222 or visit [www.FloridaDisasterFund.org](http://www.FloridaDisasterFund.org).

Also today, the governor announced an [executive order](#) amending Executive Order 24-212 – Emergency Management/Elections. The amended executive order, Executive Order (EO) 24-234, extends similar elections operations considerations to counties affected by Milton as did EO 24-212 to those affected by Helene.

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

### Hurricane Damage

PALMETTO, Fla.— 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."

This investment will include \$5.5 million for emergency berth repairs and dredging in state waters; \$3.5 million for immediate security needs and access control; and, \$500,000 to support planning activities for fortifying port infrastructure.

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.

# Save Money

*Continued from page 13*

**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.

**Tip 6: Save time as well as money**—TextNow makes phone service simple. No need to visit a brick-and-mortar store. Get phone service from home in three simple steps:

**1. Get the app:** Download the app to start calling and texting immediately on Wi-Fi.

**2. Order a SIM Card:** A one-time purchase of a SIM card for \$4.99 unlocks free calling, texting, and essential data on the nation's largest 5G network.

**3. Choose your data plan:** Add data only when you need it, right from the app. Flexible hourly, daily, or monthly data options. Change or cancel plans anytime.

### Learn More

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

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# Grand Old Flag Cake



### Ingredients

- nonstick cooking spray
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups buttermilk
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- CREAM CHEESE FROSTING:**
- 2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 pint blueberries
- 1 1/2 pints raspberries

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line length of 13x9-inch cake pan with parchment paper, leaving a 4-inch overhang. Lay another sheet across

width of pan and up sides (without overhang). Spray paper evenly with cooking spray.

To make the cake, whisk together flour, granulated sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat in butter on low speed until mixture is crumbly. Add buttermilk, eggs, and vanilla. Increase speed to medium and beat, scraping down inside of bowl, until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes.

Transfer to baking pan.

Bake cake until a cake tester inserted in center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool in pan on a rack for 10 minutes. Holding overhanging pieces of paper, pull cake from pan and let cool completely on rack. Invert platter on cake and flip over to invert cake. Carefully peel off paper and discard

To make the frosting, using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese and butter on medium speed until light. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar until fluffy. Beat in lemon juice. Refrigerate frosting for about 10 minutes if it's too soft to spread. Frost sides and top of cake. Arrange blueberries in a rectangle in upper left-hand corner of cake. Arrange raspberries in 7 rows for stripes. Refrigerate cake until serving. Cake may be made up to 3 hours ahead.

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