



In Memory of CPL Lewis B Alston

Born in Glassboro, NJ, on May 23, 1951, Lewis lived in Lancaster, PA most of his life before moving to Ocala, FL in 2016. Lewis served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a Purple Heart recipient. Lewis was an

integral member of the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Florida Honor Guard and the World Veteran's Club. More on page 6

How Elon Musk and Ramaswamy Cut Expenses

Waste-misuse of funds or resources through excessive or nonessential expenditures. Illegal! (Jail Time!)

Waste involves the taxpayers not receiving a reasonable value for money in

connection with any government-funded activities due to an inappropriate act. Paying or not paying.

Fraud-an attempt to obtain something valuable through intentional



ROME, Italy—Recently, Governor Ron DeSantis met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to grow the relationship between Italy and Florida. Both share common bonds, values, industry, and

trade, and many Italian Americans call Florida home. Both are peninsulas with historic significance and uniquely beautiful natural landscapes.

Continued page 2

misinterpretation.

If you suspect fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement of federal funds, FraudNet can help report your allegations to the right people. (Jail Time!)

Fraud is defined as the wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. (jail Time!)

At least 20 homes with Trump signs or flags were skipped from the end of October and into November due to the FEMA guidance. (Jail Time!) Fraud on the people by government agency! (Need to be Fired!)

Abuse-occurs when there is an intentional and unacceptable use of grant funds or misuse of one's position.

Abuse Misconduct Related to Government Contracting or Grants.

File a report with the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov) if your report is about the business practices of an individual, company, or entity. (Needs a Stiff Fine!)

Signing up for grant money for learning a career, getting the money then not going to school.

Whistleblowers perform an important service to the public and the government when they report evidence of waste, fraud, abuse, crime and mismanagement.

There is another way cut cost and save money. Negotiate cost of rocket's and

Continued page 2

Minister Giorgia Meloni

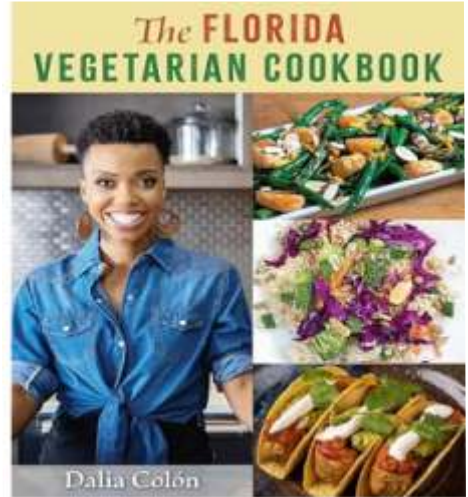
Continued from page 1

ROME, Italy—On the first day of Florida's trade and business development mission to Italy, Governor Ron DeSantis announces new partnerships to benefit Florida. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and Sapienza University of Rome have entered into a partnership to share research and increase academic cooperation as Florida continues to grow its aerospace industry. Space Florida invited Italian aerospace companies to plant their roots in the state at the Space Life Sciences Lab to take advantage of the proximity to Florida's commercially driven spaceport system, talented workforce, and extensive commerce ecosystem. Space Florida president and CEO Rob Long also championed the recently designated Florida University Space Research Consortium, which could open innovative research opportunities for Italian companies and universities, which can shape the future of the global aerospace economy with Florida at the center.

Musk and Ramaswamy

Continued from page 1
weapons for the pentagon. Build less expensive rockets to get the same results. We are using million dollar guided missiles to shoot down a thousand dollar missile. We need a bad ass secret weapon designed and built by Elon Musk. Small powerful totally controlled guided missile, to blow up one leaders home or compound at a time. Then say who's next?
Ramaswamy and Elon Musk will create a business atmosphere that will save money!!!!

Ocala Library



Please join the Friends of the Ocala Library, in conjunction with Florida Humanities, on Saturday, January 11, at 11 am, Classroom C of the Main Branch Library, for author and chef Dalia Colón. Ms. Colon will be speaking on Florida as a premier source of year-round fruits and vegetables, and why Florida is credited as the birthplace of fusion cuisine. She will also be selling copies of her new book. The event and parking are free, handicapped accessible.

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Kevin Sheilley OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



When we talk about the local economy and what drives it, there are a few industries which immediately come to mind. We are the Horse Capital of the World® and know that equine

plays a big part of the local economy. Others may think about how our community has become a major logistics center for the state and all of the new big box distribution centers which have been built near the interstate. Some may go to Ocala's long-time role as a major manufacturing center, home to companies like Lockheed Martin, REV Fire – EONE, Pella, Cardinal Glass, etc. However, the sector that employs the most people and some of the highest wages is healthcare.

Regional Healthcare Center

It might be easy for one to overlook the size and scale of the local healthcare industry. While one may look at Gainesville and see the significance of the industry there because of the near omnipresence of the

University and UF Health, our market is different. Here we have three different yet significant healthcare providers who all have made and are making substantial investments. When combined these three providers are the backbone of arguably our largest economic driver.

AdventHealth can trace its roots back locally to the real beginning of local healthcare with their 2018 purchase of what had been Munroe Regional Hospital. Today, AdventHealth Ocala is our largest hospital by beds with 425. In addition to the main downtown hospital, the system operates two free standing ERs in Belleview and TimberRidge, a Care Pavilion at Heath Brook, and a number of other facilities across the community. They are currently building a 60,000 sq. ft. medical office building on their downtown campus. Additionally, we are excited to watch them launch a Graduate Medical Education program in the very near future.

HCA operates two rapidly expanding hospital in the Ocala Metro: HCA Ocala downtown and HCA West Marion. Today, HCA Ocala has 323 beds and HCA West Marion has 236 beds. Combined, the two hospitals have nearly 3200 employees. The downtown hospital is the area's Level 1

Trauma Center and has hosted the company's Graduate Medical Education program since 2017. Each year the program hosts approximately 165 residents in a range of specialties including Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, and Family Medicine among others. Over the last few years, HCA has invested more than \$1 billion in the local market.

The newest entrant to the local is UF Health. Earlier this year, the company cut the ribbon on their new 150,000 sq. ft. Ocala Neighborhood Hospital. This facility serves patients through 10 inpatient rooms, four operating rooms, 12 pre and post operative beds, an imaging center, and a 10 room ER. Additionally, patients can receive outpatient lab draws, other pre-operative services, and rehab services with both Occupational and Physical Therapies.

Sphere

The Healthcare sector is so important to the local economy that the CEP launched the Sphere initiative in 2020. This initiative, sponsored by Empath Home Health, focuses on growing and supporting our healthcare economy by bringing all the industry's segments together to collaborate and communicate. Erin Jones on our team leads this effort and does a great job not only supporting the local healthcare community but works to recruit additional businesses to expand the healthcare economy.

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Tom Loury Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders and current member, Co-Founder and past President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber and current member. If you want to make contact with the newspaper / Tom Loury email tloury@att.net

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



By TomL I'M FIRED UP!

Trump will be throwing out the garbage. Biden started by calling us garbage, but Trump will finish it. Biden / Harris have a lot of blood on their hands. People are

going to die! Most of what Biden / Harris did was illegal! Bodies were found in the Rio Grand daily! They invited them to do something against our constitution of our United States in hopes they could make them voters. It did not work! The people drowned because of greed, power, and stupidity.

WHO IS IN FEMA? WHO IS IN CHARGE OF FEMA?

FEMA's Job description is... They are the nation's emergency management agency, and their mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We trust

them with our tax money to help with disasters. How much money does FEMA get each year? Compared to the federal revenue of \$4.44 trillion for the same period last year (Oct 2022 - Sep 2023) federal revenue has increased by \$479 billion. A lot of this money has gone to feed, house, and what ever for the illegal immigrant's. THAT IS ILLEGAL!

I have been so fired up about everything that was said and done that I have to write this. First can you imagine FEMA skipping Trump supporters. How far back have they been doing this? Trump mentioned it when someone complained about it after losing everything they had.. FEMA claimed it was a lie! These people are victims! They have paid taxes that FEMA uses to help victims (THEM). Somebody needs to go to jail. Don't just fire them "It's jail time". Agencies using tax money and weaponizing by skipping anyone because of politics, OH MY GOSH!!!

I got a taste of FEMA years ago when a

tornado went through Lady Lake and destroyed the Church. Some people lost everything they owned. So the community donated some really nice warm jackets because it would be getting cold soon.

WHO MANAGES THESE PEOPLE? FEMA DOES!

I show up at a FEMA tent! Where people who lost everything could maybe get some clothes. I thought I would tell the story about how great FEMA was, maybe take a picture, run it in my newspaper. There were people in the tent trying on several nice expensive leather jackets, I approach them and ask "did you have tornado damage?". They replied no we are from Tampa, we visit FEMA tent to get free clothes. I went to the lady in charge of the tent and told her, she would not approach them. Who ever is put in charge of free services should ask for an ID to prove they are from the affected area.

I'm STILL FIRED UP

I think the United states has had about all they can stand of the plots to kill our Presidents. Trump needs to send a dummy bomb with a note on it that says "We know where you live, put in their front yard of everyone in charge!" "Do you want to be next?"

Netanyahu needs to respond to Iran with a full blown attack. Iran has over step it's boundary's.

hey are enlisting more troops from North Korea to beat down Volodymyr Zelenskyy. I don't think Trump will allow that to happen, but he must get into office first, meanwhile Biden has approved long range missiles for Ukraine to use that will

reach inside Russia. A lot of our troops are to close to the region for safety but close enough to respond. What will happen? Trump has already warned Iran. The honeymoon is over! Trump needs to ask Elon Musk to devise some cheaper anti missiles. We are shooting down a hundred thousand dollar missiles with our million dollar missiles. We need bad ass accurate cheap missiles, fill them with used nuts and bolts. They will still kill!

CALMING DOWN!

PENTAGON BUDGET

(DOD), has a \$824 billion budget, they have not provided sufficient information for auditors. Mismanagement staggering, with \$3.8 trillion in assets and \$4 trillion in liabilities left! The pentagon has not passed their audit in seven years. Rumsfeld announced that \$2.3 trillion was missing.

I was in Elementary, Middle School and high school band and It brought back some old memories to hear all those marches at the White House presentation of the wreath and flags. It is a beautiful sound of the military band with the marching beat. I was a drummer in my earlier life... Like a hundred years ago. But I have some great stories I won't tell right now.

We love our troops and first responders and PRAY for them!!! I do every day. Another thing I am praying for is for Politicians to stop asking for money 20 times a day. We are already hurting bad where is your thoughts? More money / more money. Please stop.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, December 20th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 26th

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FIRE the Department of Education and hire a Constitutional Board of Director in each state to monitor its own education bylaws and it's local history as it happened in that state with new laws voted on by the parents and legal representatives. The parent must be the Guiding light! ANYONE caught burning or degrading our American Flag gets mandatory six months working for the State Road department in the state they degraded the Flag! Otherwise hard jail time!

Bonuses for Law Enforcement

Florida Awards 300 New Bonuses for Law Enforcement Recruits, Reaching 6,400 Total

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida is making 300 new bonus awards to Law Enforcement Officers and has reached a

milestone of 6,400 bonuses awarded to new law enforcement recruits through the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program. The latest 300 bonuses were awarded to officers serving in counties impacted by Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton. This first-of-its-kind initiative, launched in 2022, is part of Florida's strongest-in-the-nation support for law enforcement and constitutes a one-time, \$5,000 bonus—after taxes—to newly employed officers in the state.

"Florida welcomes law enforcement officers from across the country to a state where they will be recognized and appreciated," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Additionally, Florida celebrates the law enforcement profession and encourages people to join the force. Law enforcement officers make enormous personal sacrifices for the communities they serve, and they deserve higher pay and more support."

To date, more than 1,560 law enforcement officers from 49 other states and two territories have relocated to Florida, with more than 470 coming from anti-police states like California, Illinois, and New York. Each of the 6,400 newly recruited officers has received a \$5,000 bonus after taxes, with the program distributing more than \$43.3 million to date.

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida shows the nation how to support law

Continued page 6



Caption: Looking out of the window on the east side of my house at the Lory Farm, I saw this spectacular sunrise. The John Deere tractor just was sitting there enjoying it!, so was I!

In our troubled world look what we have. If you look real close you will see a small tractor in a big world, that is a full

size tractor but looks small next this sun Rise. This sun rise was early November above our horse pasture. We are concern John Deere going to Mexico, our family love John Deere but might have to change brands. Right now my son has a escalator, Skid Steer, 4 WD tractor, bull dozer and Dodge trucks etc. Buy American, Stay American!

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(Continued from page 1)

Lewis could always be found volunteering his help to Veterans and their families in the community, as well as volunteering as a crossing guard in Lancaster City. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle, was an avid scuba diver and loved spending quality time with his family and friends.

Lewis passed away on Saturday, November 18, 2023. Once one later, his presence stands firm within the ranks of the Marion Count Memorial Honor Guard. **Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson**

Bonuses

Continued from page 5

enforcement,” said Florida Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly. “This program showcases the state's commitment to rewarding the heroic work law enforcement officers do. These brave men and women are on the front lines, allowing safe communities to thrive.”

In addition to a \$5,000 recruitment bonus, benefits of becoming a Florida law enforcement officer includes financial stability, upward mobility, excellent health and retirement benefits, student loan forgiveness programs, home loan programs, and more.

For more information about the Florida

Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, visit FloridaJobs.org/Recognition-and-Recruitment.

21 Years of Symphony

Celebrate 21 Years Of Symphony Under The Lights

OCALA, Fla. Symphony Under the Lights presented by Jenkins Auto Group with support from the City of Ocala and Florida Express Waste & Recycling returns to Tuscahill Park next month on Friday, **December 6, 2024.**

Entering its 21st year, this annual free concert will see the Ocala Symphony and members of the Ocala Youth Symphony

come together to perform Christmas classics and celebrate the season!

“The musicians and I look forward to this annual tradition - now in its 21st year. Between our performance with the Ocala Youth Symphony, the fun holiday atmosphere with so many community members in attendance, the beautifully lit atmosphere of Tuscahill Park, and a surprise or two, we can't wait to give this gift to Ocala / Marion County!” - Matthew Wardell, Music Director and Conductor of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra.

Gather your family, friends, and neighbors for an evening of music under the stars! Bring your blankets and chairs and enjoy this free community concert under the

oaks of Tuscahill Park.

Event Details:

Symphony Under the Lights
Presented by Jenkins Auto Group. Support provided by the City of Ocala and Florida Express Waste & Recycling.

Date: December 6, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM

[RSVP](#)

Location: Jenkins Outdoor Stage (Tuscahill Park), 500 NE 9th St, Ocala, FL 34470

Ticket Information: This is a free event open to the public. No tickets required. Learn more at

www.reillyartscenter.com/events/symphony-under-the-lights.

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Parents Decide Students Future

By TomL
Gender Change

Education is important but the Department of Education has set out to separate the children from their parent rights with all this WOKE thinking. The transgender issue has gotten out of hand. We need to pass some laws that stop changing a child's gender till they are grown and make their own decision and use their own money. The studies are showing the change is more dramatic than they thought. Some are committing suicide others want to change back and can't creating terrible mental anguish for the rest of their lives, because someone talked them into it or let them do it when they were minors. Very few teachers like what is requested of them. Some have changed careers, or are trying to or get into a better teaching atmosphere.

Education

Michelle Obama & Barack Obama said every student should go to college! That is not a reachable goal. Michelle started a program called Reaching the “North Star”.

It's over reaching and leaving students behind. Even if a student is good in reading they can't always retain what they learned a year ago. The other thing that left some students behind was algebra. I was sitting in the bleachers at a baseball game. We were waiting for the game to start and were talking in the stands. A pilot was sitting behind and we were discussing our sons. I said one thing that discourages students is algebra & trigonometry.

Why do we insist on teaching a child something that they will never use in their life. I turned and asked everyone within my hearing... Has anyone here ever used Algebra in the field of business, the pilot was the only one out of ten people. Students who could not do that subject failed! Their parents did not know how to do the homework either and could not help them. So parents had to take them to special tutoring classes taking their family time and valuable business time to help their son or daughter learn a subject that will not help them in life. The Politician's are cramming it down our throats.

When I went to school we had a choice to

take classes that prepared you for college!
There were also classes that got you ready
for trades or just life. Reading writing and
arithmetic meaning add / subtract / divide /
multiply.

Recently I heard about a young man who said I don't need a college degree to be happy and make a lot of money. This young man lived on a farm and was not exposed to some of the negatives and opportunities that other children did. He quit high school got a job failed in that job. Started a business and failed in business. He was sitting on the tail gate of his pickup truck watching a farmer plow a pasture under for planting crops. He saw all that great looking grass disappear under the soil. He went to the farmer and said could I get some of the grass before you plow in under. He said yes but not this field, I have another field where you could get some grass.

He went out and found an old sod cutting machine with a gas motor that did not run and he fixed it and scramble to the field before it got plowed. Filled the back of his pickup truck and sat along a busy road with a sign “sod for sale” and sold it all.

Ten years later he has a fleet of tractor trailers hauling sod for his new contract with the state to do the road sides sodding. This proves you can do it if you just think out of the box and work hard. Now this guy is leasing fields and growing his own high grade grass and lives on his own farm with his family.

Living the dream!

Tariffs and Why We Need Them!

Staff Writers

Tariffs was used by President Trump to help raise money and keep expenses down. Donald Trump uses them to get United States business's from moving to China or Mexico. When a USA business moves to Mexico or other countries they can access the Chinese Market, Mexican Market and build their products with cheap labor and cheap materials. Infer steel, metals, plastics and then sell it to the USA citizens taking the U.S. factory out. Where is their Patriotism, their Honor, their loyalty to the USA? I guess we are just wanting to buy something cheap. Don't forget cheap is not

made well! Another consideration, the chance of disease could be a way of spread a new virus. Let use American products! They are our enemy!

Mexico is part of the problem. A lot of product and other things come from or through Mexico, Medical drugs are cheaper there than here. Our produce is not do good on the trip from Mexico and the country's south. Again remember they are our enemy!

I think the perfect marriage would be the Fairfax with Tariff's some how married together. They both are very desirable and make sense! It also could save us a lot of money. The more I see and hear about the Fairfax the better I like it. It should be our tax base!

We should ban doing any business with China until they stop producing and selling fentanyl, they steal our wealth, steal our science, buy our farm land. We cannot be controlled by them. You can see what was going on with Kamala Harris, Tim Walz, Bernie Sanders, George Soros. Actually the Democratic Party is almost full blown Socialist, they call it WOKE. They are trying to split the country down the middle and there are American fools willing to try to help. It's like a chess game to them. We must stop them. We must stop Iran NOW! I am very disappointed in some of the Entertainment field accepting money to show up for Kamala. I have made note of them and will not listen or go to any thing they do.

Interesting Kamala Harris & Tim Walz had to buy the domain name from Cyber Squatters for \$15,000 so they could use the name on the Internet!
I Wonder Why?

AI & Robotics

(NewsUSA) - The United States is poised for global leadership in the area of AI and robotics as discussed at the AI+ Robotics Summit hosted by the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP), a nonprofit and nonpartisan initiative with a goal of making recommendations to strengthen America's long-term competitiveness in AI. The sessions highlighted significant technological advancements and outlined ways to achieve and maintain global leadership, said SCSP in a recent newsletter. Key takeaways regarding AI and robotics identified at the summit include:

1. Advances in AI have enabled robotics to move from physics-based problems to natural language solutions. The next generation of robots will be powered in part by LLMs, simulation computers, and on-device robotic foundation models.

2. Using AI in simulation environments to model robot interactions at machine scale. Gathering simulation and real-world data would allow robots to expand beyond factories and warehouses.

3. Future factories will be highly automated due to advanced manufacturing. Factories are the testing ground for innovation in AI-enabled robotics. These advances will also support a transformation across industries ranging from ag-riculture to medicine to construction.

4. Brainstorming “moonshot” ideas. Players from all parts of the U.S. robotics ecosystem could get behind big ideas that would fuel the U.S. robotics ecosystem to technological advantage, such as investing in robotics supply chains and leveraging AI-enabled robots to search for life in outer space.

5. Taking advantage of voluntary public-private partnerships. Today's AI and robotics innovations are driven by the private sector, but partnerships can help bridge technology gaps, strengthen supply chains, and address workforce challenges.

6. Promoting private investment in hardware. The U.S. government can reduce the risk for private investment in robotics production at scale with incentives such as tax credits.

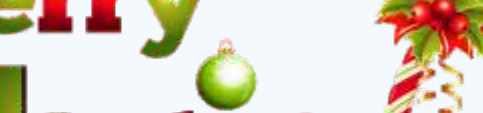
7. Embracing new jobs. Placing AI at the center of learning will educate the next generation workforce with new skills to adapt to an evolving technology landscape.

8. Accelerating learning, mapping, and cooperating on robotics with allies. The U.S. should work with partner nations to foster structural cooperation on shared programs.

9. **Catching up to China's industrial robotics.** China has aggressively adopted new technologies for robotics in manufacturing. These investments and initiatives pose a competitive challenge to the U.S.

10. Bringing robotics to the forefront of U.S. technology strategies. China has outcompeted the U.S. in robotics and the lack of a national strategy illustrates how it is a secondary consideration.

Visit scsp.ai to learn more, and visit the SCSP YouTube channel to watch sessions



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FAIRTax



The campaigns are over and we have a new President. How could this effect our efforts to push the FAIRtax ahead? President Trump has promised no tax on tips, Social Security and overtime. There have also been leaks from his campaign that he is also looking into a national sales tax, the elimination of the income tax and the repeal of the 16th Amendment. This is all

good news.

President Trump has floated the idea of using tariffs to replace the income tax but the FAIRtax is much more economically efficient than tariffs. While tariffs do bring money into the federal treasury, they are more suited to enforcing fair trade between countries than for raising revenue. The FAIRtax however, was specifically designed to replace the income tax in funding the government.

Unfortunately the DC elites and many members of Congress in both parties will work feverishly to retain the present income/payroll tax system. These people have used the income tax system for decades to raise large amounts of money for their re-election campaigns and to exert control over our lives by giving tax breaks to those who

will do their bidding and tax penalties to those who don't. They also love having the power of the IRS at their disposal to punish those who dare to oppose their agenda with higher taxes and IRS audits. They won't give up easily.

Of course if the Elites feel they may lose the income tax, they will recommend a value added tax (VAT) to collect the income needed for the government. The VAT has many problems -

1) it will still allow Congress to sell benefits to special interests

2) it will require businesses to complete VAT returns

3) it will still require the IRS to implement

4) it will once again hide the true cost of government from the American taxpayer

Although replacing the income/payroll tax system with something like a ten percent national retail sales tax, with a prebate, and raising the rest of the money needed through a VAT would be much better than the present system, the FAIRtax alone is all that would be needed to replace the revenue generated by the income tax and would avoid all the problems associated with the VAT.

FAIRtax supporters have long known that the way to get the FAIRtax passed was to elect a President that is brave enough and determined enough to lead the charge. Could this be our chance?

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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 Xoloitzcuintli, or Xolo, which is Mexican hairless dog breed.



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



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

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



Humane Society of Marion County
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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



**AG Moody's
Office of Statewide
Prosecution
Charges Tax
Preparer with
Money Laundering
and Fraud for
Stealing from
Seniors**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging a tax preparer with multiple felony counts for scheming to defraud Floridians, many of whom are seniors. The Broward Sheriff's Office arrested Ricardo Karns for using his tax preparation business to defraud at least 21 unsuspecting victims — 19 of whom are seniors. Karns operated Karns Taxes & Investments and obtained the personal identification information of nonclients and fraudulently used the information to open credit card accounts in the victims' names. Once obtaining the fraudulent credit cards, Karns used the cards at Karns Taxes & Investments, making it appear that the victims purchased the tax preparation service.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This tax preparer stole personal information to defraud Florida seniors. He tried to launder his ill-gotten gains, funneling the stolen funds through his tax business — where he spent countless hours executing his illegal scheme. Now, my Statewide Prosecutors will make sure he pays for his crimes with an extended stay at a taxpayer-funded facility."

According to the law enforcement investigation, Karns transferred funds from

the fraudulent transactions conducted at Karns Taxes & Investments to a separate account or withdrew the funds in the form of cash. The investigation also revealed that some of the fraudulently obtained credit cards showed transactions being conducted at businesses owned by Karns' associates.

Karns is charged with one count of organized scheme to defraud, two counts of money laundering, 16 counts of criminal use of personal identification information, 19 counts of grand theft of a person 65 years or older and three counts of grand theft.

OSP Statewide Prosecutors Sophia Birriel-Sanchez and Jonathan Bridges will handle the case.

**AG Moody's Statewide Prosecutors
Charge Members of Organized Retail
Theft Ring for Committing More Than 35
Thefts in South Florida**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging three members of an organized crime ring with multiple felony counts for stealing from retailers in South Florida. According to a Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office investigation, Ariel McFarlane, Lequentin Butler and Eddy Etienne committed more than 35 thefts in Palm Beach and Broward counties in a four-month period. The group targeted major retailers and stole items from laundry detergent to fragrances and expensive clothing.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "All the laundry detergent and perfume in the state of Florida couldn't cover up the stench of guilt emanating from these

organized retail thieves. They committed more than 35 thefts from multiple retailers in South Florida, stealing more than \$15,000 worth of laundry detergent, fragrances and expensive clothing. Now, my statewide prosecutors will make sure they pay for this four-month crime spree spanning multiple counties."

According to the investigation, between January and April, McFarlane, Butler and Etienne committed more than 35 thefts from retail and department stores in South Florida. The group stole laundry detergent, laundry products, fragrances and expensive clothing from stores including CVS, Walgreens, Publix, Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's. After completing the thefts, the group posted the stolen goods for sale online through McFarlane's Facebook Marketplace page and Instagram. The trio then delivered the stolen products to customers in Palm Beach and Broward counties in McFarlane's vehicle.

Each of the three defendants are charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, organized retail theft and unlawful use of two-way communications devices. McFarlane and Butler are also charged with dealing in stolen property. Additionally, Etienne is charged with grand theft.

Etienne is currently in the country on a green card and is still at large.

Attorney General Moody's Assistant Statewide Prosecutors Chris Olowin and Kristin Howe will handle the case.

**Attorney General Moody Takes Swift
Action Against FEMA Officials to Make
Sure ALL Americans are Served as
Tropical System Looms**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is taking legal action against current and former Federal

Emergency Management Agency officials for conspiracy to discriminate against Florida hurricane victims who support President-elect Donald Trump. According to whistleblower reports, FEMA workers in Lake Placid were directed to ignore storm victims in households that displayed Trump signs or flags.

In an interview following these damning revelations, fired FEMA supervisor Marn'i Washington claimed political discrimination by FEMA is not an isolated event and occurred across the country. To hold the agency accountable for violating the civil rights of Floridians, Attorney General Moody is taking legal action against Washington and FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, and seeking punitive damages in their individual capacities — as a tropical system develops south of Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Hurricane season is not over, and the federal agency in charge of emergency response is embroiled in scandal — caught withholding aid from storm victims in Florida who support President Trump. I am taking swift legal action to find out how far this political discrimination reaches and to make sure all Americans who fall victim to devastating storms are served, regardless of their political affiliation."

The legal complaint outlines the terrible facts of the civil rights violations following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The complaint includes a message from Washington directing workers to "avoid homes advertising Trump."

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



On Final Day of Trade Mission, Governor DeSantis Oversees Second MOU Signing and Visits Florida-bound Leonardo Helicopters

M I L A N , I t a l y — T o d a y ,

Governor DeSantis presided over an MOU signing between Medical Microinstruments Inc., the University of South Florida, and Tampa General Hospital. This MOU is an agreement to work together to introduce cutting-edge, microrobotic surgical technology for reconstructive oncology and the care of cancer patients in Florida. This new robotic surgical technology will increase the quality of life for those battling or recovering from cancer and make procedures for Floridians more precise and less invasive.

In Milan, Governor DeSantis met with Leonardo Helicopters to discuss their full buildout at Florida's Whiting Aviation Park. With the support of Space Florida and funding from the Governor's Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, the company is near completion on a state-of-the-art, \$65 million customer support center at the park in Northwest Florida. During the meeting, the Governor encouraged Leonardo Helicopters to explore potential partnerships with Florida universities and technology companies to drive innovation and expand opportunities in the aerospace industry.

"Our trip has been extremely productive," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We've forged new partnerships, enticed new jobs to the state, and found opportunities to offer more workforce training and apprenticeships to

residents of Florida. Thank you to everyone involved in executing this trade mission."

Over the course of the trip, Governor R DeSantis has:

- Met with more than 30 businesses, organizations and local governments;
- Presided over two MOU signings between Floridian and Italian institutions and businesses;

- Spoken at six business seminars with audiences of Floridian and Italian companies; and
- Attended eight roundtable discussions between ports, space organizations, life science companies, and universities to encourage partnership and collaboration.

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, this week continues to be a success," said Florida Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly. "Today's meetings are just another example of how the state of Florida supports our local partners and companies like Leonardo to bring jobs to Floridians, especially those in rural communities."

"This week, FDOT and our seaport partners have connected with many of our Italian counterparts to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new relationships," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared. W. Perdue P.E. "Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, we have placed a direct emphasis on sharing best practices, strategic trade opportunities and understanding the needs of Italian companies in order for them continue expanding across Florida. FDOT is proud to be an international leader in transportation and looks forward to working with these companies and associations for decades to come."

"The intersection of health care and technology was on full display as we had

discussions with Italy's top industry leaders and Florida Hospital leaders to reaffirm Florida's position as a premier destination for investment and collaboration," said Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Jason Weida. "Companies like Medical Microinstruments, Inc. highlight the importance of cutting-edge medical technology with the world's smallest wristed medical microinstruments. Technological innovation, coupled with Florida's vibrant business landscape will drive our shared success forward"

Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd led a group of higher education delegates to meet with Politecnico di Milano—Italy's largest science-technology university, resulting in multiple potential partnerships between the Italian institution and Florida universities.

"Italy is the ninth largest foreign direct investor in Florida by employment," said Florida Secretary of State Secretary Cord Byrd. "By connecting and collaborating with Italian universities to develop our cultural and economic partnerships, Florida can continue to build a dynamic workforce with students and graduates from the Florida/Italy partnering universities."

Additionally, Florida delegates in the life sciences industry met with representatives from the Milano Innovation District to lay the groundwork for potential collaboration.

Florida Continues to Break Tourism Records

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida continues to be the country's premier travel destination as it once again sets record-breaking visitation numbers in the third quarter of 2024. Preliminary estimates indicate that 34.6 million visitors traveled to the Sunshine State, marking a 1.8% increase over Q3 2023 and making it the highest visitation on record for a third quarter. The record-breaking visitation was fueled by

31.8 million domestic visitors, 2.3 million overseas visitors, and 582,000 Canadian visitors.

This marks the third consecutive quarter of record-setting visitation to Florida, highlighting continued growth in both domestic and international travel. The first three quarters of 2024 show an increase of 2 million visitors from the same period in 2023.

"The Free State of Florida continues to break records for tourism," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "It is a testament to our model, and we will continue to operate our state with common sense, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, and a penchant for freedom."

"The hard work and resilience of Floridians have been instrumental in keeping our tourism industry strong, showcasing the best of what our state has to offer," said Dana Young, President & CEO of VISIT FLORIDA. "Governor DeSantis' leadership has positioned Florida as a top choice for travelers, and the continued record-breaking tourism numbers reflect that."

Highlights from VISIT FLORIDA's Latest Visitation Estimates Include:

34.6 million visitors traveled to Florida in Q3 2024, marking a 1.8% increase from Q3 2023 and the highest visitation for any third quarter.

31.8 million domestic visitors in Q3 2024, reflecting a 1.8% increase from the previous year.

2.3 million overseas visitors in Q3 2024, up 1.9% from Q3 2023, and nearing full recovery.

582,000 Canadian visitors in Q3 2024, representing a 2.5% increase from the previous year.

Domestic visitors made up 91.8% of total visitation, overseas visitors accounted for 6.6%, and Canadian visitors represented 1.7%.

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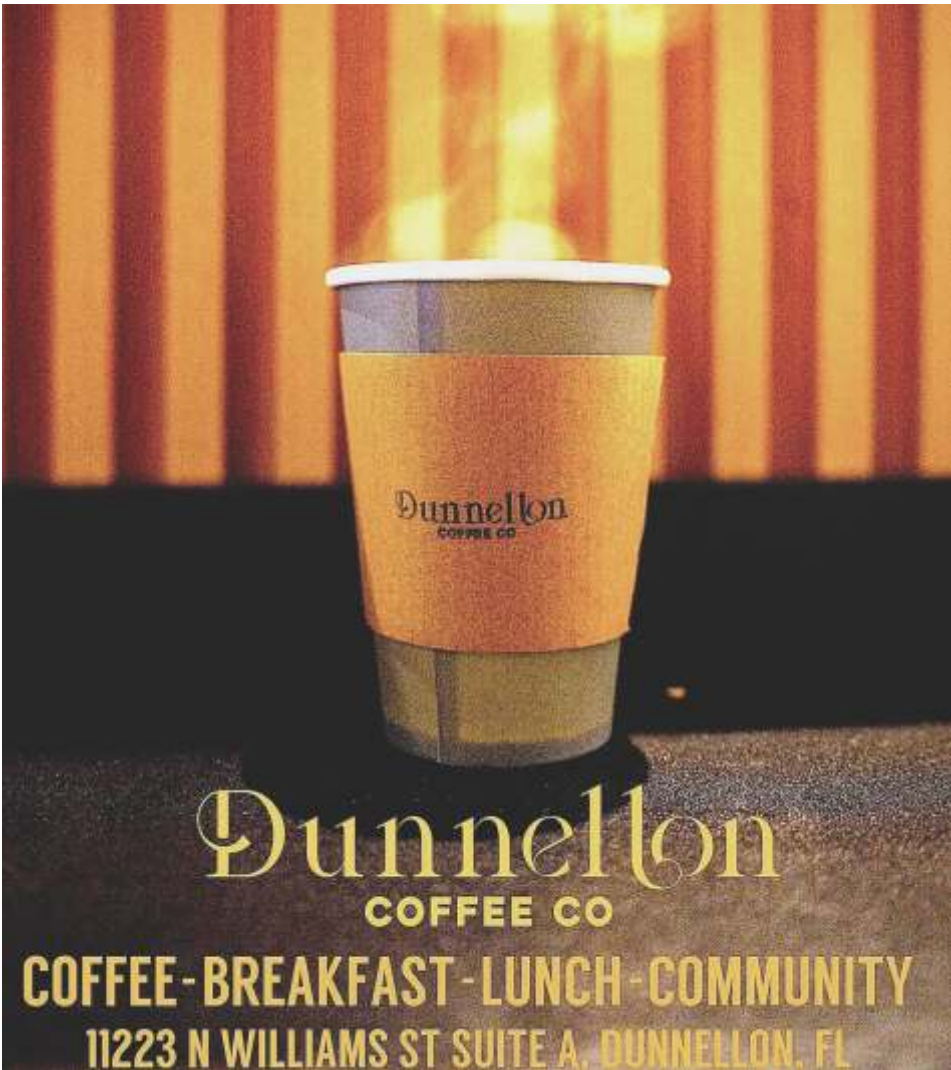
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



ICYMI: Rep. Cammack Hosts House Agriculture Committee Chairman For Hurricane Damage Visits

GAINESVILLE, FL — On Saturday, Rep. Kat Cammack hosted House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (PA-01) to survey damage from the recent hurricanes and their impacts on the agricultural sector. Congressmen Austin Scott (GA-08), Darren Soto (FL-09), and Doug LaMalfa (CA-01) also joined for the visits in Florida before moving to Congressman Scott's district in Georgia

later in the afternoon. In Florida, the Members toured Shenandoah Dairy in Live Oak, held a roundtable with producers at the Suwannee County Farm Bureau, viewed a timber track with the Florida Forestry Association, and viewed infrastructure damage at Adams Farm in Jasper. The Members then traveled to Jennings, Florida to meet with fruit and vegetable producers impacted by the hurricanes. According to a [preliminary estimate](#) by Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Hurricane Milton caused \$1.5B to \$2.5B in damages to Florida's crops and agricultural infrastructure.



Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families' 'Campaign for Inclusion' Research Shows Inclusive Communities Critical for Future Military Force

(NewsUSA) - One in three active-duty families of color have turned down military assignments due to concerns about racism or lack of inclusion in local communities, according to research from Blue Star Families' Campaign for Inclusion. For two-thirds of these service members, declining orders led to negative career impacts — and for 15%, it was career-ending.

"When military families of color turn down assignments due to community concerns, it impacts not just family well-being but our national security," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families. "With most recruitable U.S. adults projected to be people of color within five years, creating truly inclusive communities isn't just the right thing to do — it's essential for maintaining our All-Volunteer Force."

The latest research from Blue Star Families' Campaign for Inclusion examined how communities can better support diverse military families through case studies of three distinct military communities: Hill Air Force Base (Utah), San Antonio (Texas, "Military City USA"), and Hampton Roads (Virginia).

Key findings reveal that both formal systems (like community resources and programs) and informal networks (neighbors and local connections) are foundational for military families developing a sense of belonging. Having multiple shared identities — from military affiliation to cultural background — strengthens these connections.

The research found that individual acts of welcome — from neighbors introducing themselves to communities providing culturally relevant services — make the

biggest difference in helping military families feel at home. For example, San Antonio's military spouse employment programs and Hampton Roads' diverse cultural resources demonstrate how communities can create infrastructure supporting inclusion.

Building on this, here are five ways individuals and communities can activate to support local military and Veteran families.

Create Family-Friendly Spaces: Organize inclusive events and shared community spaces that bring military and civilian families together naturally.

Connect Through Nature: Collaborate on outdoor initiatives like community gardens and hiking clubs that facilitate organic relationship-building.

Celebrate Diverse Cultures: Host events honoring various cultural traditions throughout the year, not just during designated months.

Revive Block Parties: Foster neighborhood connections through welcoming events that help military families build local bonds.

Build Inclusion Programs: Develop comprehensive initiatives focused on direct support, community partnerships, and cultural integration.

"Every community member has the power to help military families feel welcomed and valued," added Roth-Douquet. "These actions aren't just about being good neighbors — they directly impact military readiness and our nation's ability to recruit and retain the force we need."

This research is part of Blue Star Families' ongoing Campaign for Inclusion initiative to strengthen military communities through greater understanding and support of diverse military families.

To learn more about the Blue Star Families Campaign for Inclusion and ways to support military families in your community, visit [BlueStarFam.org/CFI](#).