

Governor DeSantis Meets with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni



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.

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.



The Lady Lake Chamber had their Business Referral Luncheon at the the Texas Road House Grill. It was a busy day. The food was good the business people are always sharing and polite. I met some new

people that I can help them and they can help me! Over 40 business people attending, plenty of door Prizes, a good meeting! More pictures on pages 8 & 9

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 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 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 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!!!!

Power Of Women

The event has featured speakers discussing the importance of integrity and the role of women in society. Some events have also included high school students holding signs to celebrate women's voting rights. See more page 2.

Villages Power Of Women



The 2nd Annual Power of Women Edge Dermatology, Hands of Mercy Everywhere, Recharge Clinic, J. Morrissey, Comfort Keepers, Citizens First Bank, Charter Research, United Southern Bank, Carrabba's, Belleview Chiropractic Clinic, and Big Dan's Car Wash. This event was sponsored by: Jena Sullivan Edward Jones, Your Daily Nourishment, Waters Leslie DiCesare

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 and click on Lake County Sheriff on right side under "Contributing Editors".



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FOOD DRIVE

Lady Lake Holiday Schedule

LADY LAKE – The Town of Lady Lake is a community hub for warm holiday experiences this season. From cherished traditions such as Light up Lady Lake and our annual Christmas Parade, to new favorites, our events are designed to bring the community together and create lasting memories. Mark your calendars for these festive celebrations:

A Night with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Kick off the holiday season with a magical evening at the library! Enjoy a cozy reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and savor cookies and cocoa with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This free event is perfect for creating unforgettable family memories.

Date: Monday, Dec. 2

Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Location: Lady Lake Library, 225 W. Guava St.

Live Christmas Music by Gary and Jerry

Enjoy the festive sounds of the season with live Christmas music performed by Gary and Jerry. Gather by the Christmas tree in the Bay Window of the Lady Lake Library for a delightful afternoon of holiday melodies.

Date: Thursday, Dec. 5

Time: 2–3 p.m.

Location: Lady Lake Library, 225 W. Guava St.

A Storybook Christmas: Lady Lake's Christmas Parade

Experience the charm of Lady Lake's annual Christmas Parade! This year's theme, "A Storybook Christmas," brings beloved holiday tales to life with festive floats and cheerful music. Text LLParade24 to 38276

for event, traffic, and weather updates.

Date: Saturday, Dec. 7

Time: 10 a.m.

Location: Old Dixie Highway

Storytime with Santa

Gather at the Lady Lake Library for a special storytime featuring Christmas classics and a visit from Santa himself! Complimentary photos will be available for pickup the following day.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 11

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Lady Lake Library, 225 W. Guava St.

Light Up Lady Lake

Celebrate the season at our annual Light Up Lady Lake event! Step into a winter wonderland illuminated by thousands of lights. Enjoy live entertainment, choirs, bounce houses, food trucks, and, of course, photos with Santa after he arrives via sleigh.

Date: Friday, Dec. 13

Time: 6–8 p.m.

Location: Veterans' Park, 106 US Highway 27/441

Visit with Santa at the Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market

Spend a merry day at the Farmers and Crafts Market! Visit with Santa, enjoy live Christmas music by Mike and Kathy, and participate in the Holiday Vendor Gift Basket drawing at noon.

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 17

Time: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Location: Rolling Acres Sports Complex, 250 Rolling Acres Road

Festival of Trees

The Lady Lake Library's second annual

Festival of Trees is a stunning showcase of beautifully decorated Christmas trees created by local families, schools, non-profits, and businesses. Visit the library to view the trees and vote for your favorite design through January 3. The top design will be crowned the community favorite!

Dates: Now through Jan. 3, 2025

Location: Lady Lake Library, 225 W. Guava St.

Come celebrate the season with us in Lady Lake. With something for everyone, our town is the perfect place to make holiday memories that will last a lifetime.

For additional information, visit www.ladylakefl.gov and follow us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/townofladylake

Elisha Pappacoda

Tariffs & 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 Soro's. 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!

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



**By TomL
PUBLISHERS
NOTES 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.

They 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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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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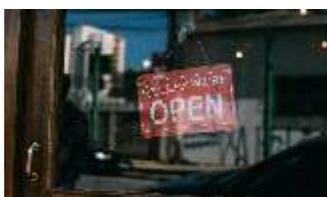
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FIRST Adopt the FAIRTax Plan where we pay tax when we buy anything that's new. Incorporate tariff plan to FairTax. Not needing income tax! The states will collect it the revenue for the Government..

NO sales tax on anything used! That is double taxation! Auto's, boats, campers, etc! (Savings for the tax payers).

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!

Parents Should Decide

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!

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 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.

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
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- **Give Back**- Volunteer on committees to help the community

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Hosted by:
Sam

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Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



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Youth DECEMBER

Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed: December 13th from 11:30-6pm
 Closed: December 22nd from 3-6pm
 Closed: December 25th

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Evening with Santa and Mrs Claus @5:30-6:30pm	3 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	4 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	5 	6 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
9 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	10 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	11 Breakfast and Storytime with Santa @10:30am (Community Building) Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	12 	13 Lego Masters @ 3:30pm
16 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	17 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting: Cookie Decorating @ 3:30pm	18 Storytime 10:30am Open from 9 - 11:45 am Closed from 11:30 - 6 pm	19 	20 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
23 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	24 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	25 Closed for Christmas!	26 	27 Lego Masters @ 3:30pm
30 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	31 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	On December 18th, we will be closed after 11:45 am for the rest of the day for an in-service event for town employees. Our normal hours will resume December 19th. Please note we will also be closed for Christmas, Wednesday the 25th.		

Adult DECEMBER

Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed: December 13th from 11:30-6pm
 Closed: December 22nd from 3-6pm
 Closed: December 25th

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 	3	4 SHINE 2-4pm	5 It's Gary & Jerry Music Concert @ 2-3 pm	6
9	10 Book Discussion @ 2-4pm	11 SHINE 2-4pm	12 Paint with Marsha (Sign up required) @ 2-4pm	13 BestBuy iPhone/iPad @ 9:30am
16	17 	18 Open from 9 to 11:45 am Closed from 11:30 to 6 pm	19 Bingo! @2-3:30pm sign up required	20 Crochet and Knitting Hangout @ 3-4:30pm
23 Board Games Meetup! @2-4pm sign up required	24	25 Closed for Christmas!	26	27 BestBuy iMac @ 9:30am
30	31 	On December 18th, we will be closed after 11:45 am for the rest of the day for an in-service event for town employees. Our normal hours will resume December 19th. Please note we will also be closed for Christmas, Wednesday the 25th.		

About AI and Roboti



(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 agriculture 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 from the AI+ Robotics Summit.

Article Link
<https://about.newsusa.com/what-to-know-now-about-ai-and-robotics>

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

Continued page 12



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FROM THE DESK OF 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.

Rep. Cammack Joins Rep. Buchanan, 52 Members Demanding Answers From FEMA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Rep. Cammack joined Rep. Vern Buchanan and 52 House colleagues in a letter demanding answers and accountability from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) following stunning revelations

that an agency supervisor instructed staff to avoid providing storm assistance to homes displaying campaign signs for President-elect Trump.

According to reports from sources inside FEMA, at least 20 homes with pro-Trump campaign signs or flags were bypassed by relief workers from late October through November, as a result of guidance from a FEMA supervisor directing workers to avoid these homes. The supervisor alleged that this practice of political discrimination was "not isolated" to Florida, but also extended to the Carolinas. She even stated that "senior leadership will lie to you and tell you that they don't know" while FEMA continues to deny assistance to storm victims across the country.

"Americans deserve better. In this country, we protect all our citizens, regardless of political affiliation. We urge FEMA to take swift and decisive action to address this issue, hold those responsible fully accountable and restore public trust in its ability to serve every American in need," **said the lawmakers in the letter.**

Blue Star

Continued from page 11

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," add-ed Roth-Douquet. "These actions aren't just about being good neighbors — they directly impact mili-tary 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](https://about.newsusa.com/blue-star-families-campaign-for-inclusion-research-shows-inclusive-communities-critical-for-future).

Article Link

<https://about.newsusa.com/blue-star-families-campaign-for-inclusion-research-shows-inclusive-communities-critical-for-future>

Do's And Don'ts of D-I-Y



(NAPSI)—Homeowners often turn to online do-it-yourself tips to help them maintain their house, but some advice can do more harm than good.

For example, DIY duct cleaning can lead to serious damage to your HVAC system. Inadequate tools and techniques can cause blockages, reduce system efficiency, and result in costly repairs.

More importantly, DIY methods can release harmful particles into your home's air. Dust, allergens, and mold spores can escape, posing health risks to you and your loved ones.

DIY duct cleaning can be time-consuming and frustrating, often resulting in incomplete or ineffective cleaning. Any initial cost

savings can quickly vanish with potential system damage and increased energy bills.

Fortunately, there can be a solution. NADCA member companies use specialized equipment to thoroughly and safely clean your ducts, ensuring contaminants are properly contained and removed.

You can trust NADCA professionals to maintain your HVAC system and ensure you and your family breathe clean indoor air. Visit [NADCA.com](https://www.nadca.com) to learn more and find qualified professionals nearby.

Bringing our
community together...
Call/Email Tom:
352-804-1223
tloury@att.net



Answers page 14



CORN PUZZLER

Across

1. Overthrow plotters
6. Blacken, as meat
10. Old English bard
14. Work for Moffo or a buffo
15. Chantilly product
16. Borough on the English Channel
17. Things in your head
19. From scratch
20. Color in a Steinbeck title
21. Batman's creator
22. They can bring you down
24. Beset
26. Refrains from taking
28. Take notice
30. Thirsty
31. Percussive dance
34. Back-forty units
37. Impressively great
39. Off one's rocker
40. One may be in your head

Down

43. Shape
44. Speck of dust
45. Some barnyard sounds
46. Southern Togo native
47. Suitable to the occasion
48. Broad valley
50. Is impossible to pin down
53. Scatter, as doubts
57. Typewriter roller
59. Steep, rugged rock
61. Andrew Lloyd Webber subject
62. Help for the puzzled
63. It's in your head
66. Past Peruvian
67. Republic consisting of 26 counties
68. ___ Haute
69. Offensive expression
70. The Johns we don't know
71. Important parts of the theater
1. Hooded striker?
2. After, on the slopes
3. Necklace pieces, perhaps
4. Jackie's "O"
5. Most gangly
6. Group with a common ancestor
7. Czech writer turned president
8. 11 in blackjack

9. Explore

10. Oak offering
11. Pioneer's wagon
12. Ham's relinquishing word
13. They hold hymnals
18. Corduroy rib
23. Type of league
25. Out in front
27. Cut a movie
29. Consecrate
32. "___ Breaky Heart"
33. Gardening supplies
34. High point
35. Toot one's own horn
36. Pertinence
38. Dino, e.g.
39. Angler's needs
41. Encroached
42. Cause to be grateful
47. Is doubled?
49. First of all
51. Oil of rose petals, e.g.
52. Type of tactics
54. Bacteriology dish
55. Tennis Hall-of-Famer
56. ___ and penates
57. Big name in groundhogs
58. Waiter's place
60. Some breads
64. Former capital on Guanabara Bay, briefly
65. Animator Avery

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FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



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

TALLAHA

SSEE, 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 Issues Tips to Help Floridians Avoid Falling Victim to Fraudulent Schemes on Utility Scam Awareness Day

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is recognizing Utility Scam Awareness Day by issuing tips to help Floridians avoid falling victim to fraudulent schemes. Utility scams occur when scammers impersonate utility companies and pressure ratepayers to make an immediate payment under the threat of having their power terminated. According to one report last year, more than 500 Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas customers and more than 1,300 Duke Energy customers reported utility scam attempts. Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance: Power-Off Fraud contains tips and information about these schemes to help Floridians avoid falling victim.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Utility scams are a threat to Floridians, with scammers constantly finding new ways to trick ratepayers out of their money. Utility Scam Awareness Day serves as an important reminder for all Floridians to stay vigilant against these schemes. Our Scams at a Glance: Power-Off Fraud resource can help Floridians recognize the signs of utility fraud, and I encourage ratepayers to use this tool to stay informed and avoid falling victim."

Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance: Power-Off Fraud lists several ways to recognize a possible utility scam. Consumers should look out for:

- **Urgent Payment Demands:** Scammers often claim that

immediate payment is necessary to prevent disconnection;

- **Unusual Payment Requests:** Requests for gift cards, prepaid debit cards or cryptocurrency are common red flags;

- **Spoofed Caller IDs:** Scammers may manipulate caller IDs to make it appear as if a call is from a utility company; and

- **False Refunds:** Bad actors may promise false refunds, free products or services but have stipulations hidden in a contract.

The resource offers the following tips to avoid these schemes, including:

- **Verify the authenticity of a caller** that purports to be from a utility company by contacting the company directly using a trusted phone number found on its official website or utility bill;

- **Never provide personal or financial information over the phone** to a solicitor; and

- **Refuse to make payments through unconventional methods** like gift cards or cryptocurrency.

To report a utility scam, contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at MyFloridaLegal.com.

Scams at a Glance is an outreach program with information about common and emerging scams. The downloadable brochures are designed to teach consumers how to avoid falling victim to fraudulent schemes.

Military Caregivers



Volunteer Finds Community in Military and Veteran Caregiver Network

(NAPSI)—If you or someone you care for is ever among America's more than 2 million military personnel or in their families—or even if you're not—here's a story you may find inspiring:

Betty Towler met her husband, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Nigel Towler, over 20 years ago while stationed in Korea. When they returned stateside, Towler made a professional sacrifice for her family.

"I had to leave the military because my husband was deploying. We already had two kids."

When her husband returned from Iraq in 2005, Towler started noticing changes.

"He was with us all the time when he came back. He wanted to hang out with his family, but he was drinking and that wasn't normal."

Towler had her hands full, raising two children with another on the way and impending permanent change of station orders to Germany. A month later, her husband deployed a second time to Iraq.

"We all felt it when he came back the second time. He would be there, but he was not there. The TV would be on, but he wasn't watching it. His mind was somewhere else," Towler recalls. "We could be sitting on the couch and he's on one end and I'm on the other and it's like an awkward but a very scary silence. It was like a void. And I felt I could fall into this darkness, and nobody was going to come for me, and nobody was going to help me."

Towler said she tried seeking help but found little support as a dependent overseas. They turned to religion, but that didn't bring her family the solace they were seeking either. When they returned stateside in 2011, little had changed.

"Everything was just so overwhelming," Towler said. "All the things people were telling us to do, all the appointments. It was all too much. Even visiting with family: he hears everybody being loud, laughing and his brain was like, 'I can't do this. There are too many conversations going on at the same time. I love them but I can't be around them. It's too chaotic,' he said. He'd be down for 2 to 3 days trying to recover from just hanging out with other adults."

Then in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, but their family was largely unaffected. In fact, Towler sees it as a blessing. It gave them time to focus on their health.

"I signed up for a lot of webinars and a lot of online courses," she shared.

One of these resources was the American Red Cross Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN), a secure, online community that acts as both a resource directory and peer support network to over 12,000 military-affiliated caregivers. Using evidence-based peer-support programs, caregivers connect, share knowledge, learn new skills, and gain hope. Towler found support and solace from others just like her. Empowered by her newfound communities, she exercised her voice.

"We had to set boundaries. I was like, no, we need to tell them that we can only do two or three appointments in one week. It was too much. I had to learn to speak up, speak up for him and speak up for us."

Now a Red Cross volunteer, Towler has been involved with the MVCN for the past five years, giving support to other military-affiliated caregivers going through the same challenges she did.

"We have about four calls a month. We'll have some Zooms and some Slack chats just to really check in with the caregivers. I love how the older caregivers will share their experiences, like, here's what we had to do, here's the changes that happened in my house. Being part of this reminded me that I spent so much time caring for this one person, I forgot to make friends."

Towler cares for her husband following his two deployments to Iraq, and the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network helps her do that by also helping her care for herself.

Learn More

For further information or to join the MVCN community, visit [redcross.org/caregivers](https://www.redcross.org/caregivers).

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 , Italy — Today, 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%.

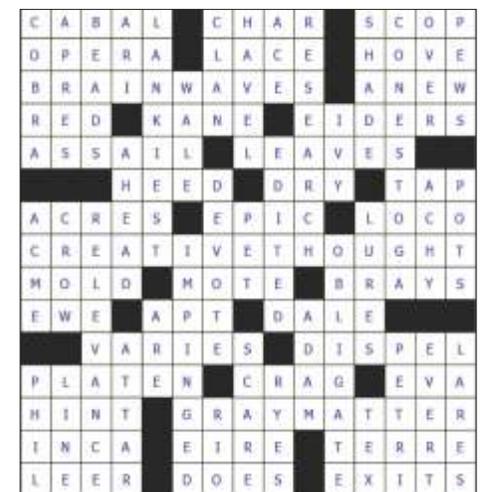
Total enplanements at Florida's 19 major airports reached 25.6 million in Q3 2024, up 1.3% from the previous year, with notable growth in airports like Pensacola and Palm Beach.



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!

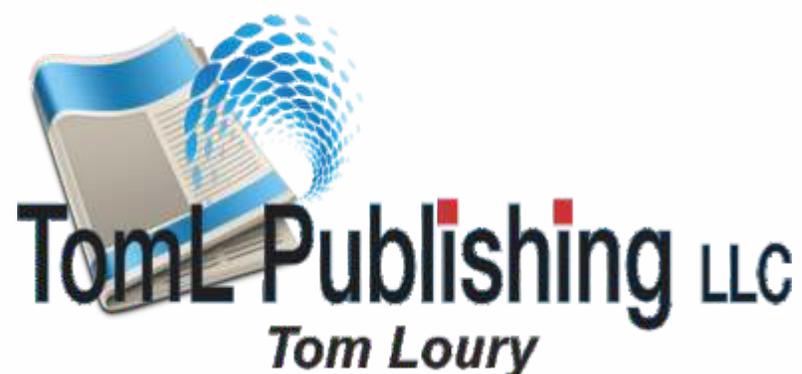
CAPTION: Looking out of the window on the east side of my house at the Loury Farm, I saw this spectacular sunrise. The John Deere tractor just was sitting there enjoying it!, so was I!



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