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• The Villages, Sumter County, FL

Volume 22 Issue 7

July 2025



The Galleria of Fine Jewelry!

Bob's Coins & Jewelry celebrated the grand opening of its new showroom at 15843 S US Hwy 441, Unit 1 in Summerfield on June 3rd. The event

welcomed guests into an expanded space featuring private buying rooms, a public repair viewing area, and state-of-the-art laser engraving. With three generations

of in-house jewelers, the family-run shop continues to offer expert service in custom jewelry, rare coins, appraisals, and repairs. Open Tuesday–Friday 9–5

and Saturday 9–2. Learn more at bobscoinsandjewelry.com or call 352-347-7900.

See pictures page 7 for more photos



Our traveling reporter went to Trump Tower covering the Trump Mobile Announcement!

Iran Says “I Want to Kill You!”

By TomL

What would you do if someone said “I’m going to kill you?” You would go to law enforcement and report it. Think about what you would do if it was a foreign country threatening you? You would report it to a federal Law Enforcement. Well that is what just happened. For forty years, we, I, You have been in danger for years from a country and we don’t know why.

We have gone through many Presidents and none have done a thing but make us live under the threats. This president does not expect us to live under threats. He did something about it and apparently and will do his best for our country not to expect us to live under threats.

So you countries out there, you have sent people here to threaten us and have paid people to riot in our country. Our president and his law enforcement team will find you and send you packing or put you in jail. We

are the United States off America! You can’t do that to us any more. When this president can no longer do the job like term out. Others are in place to help the country to live in peace.



**NEW FEATURE
TOWN NEWS
See page 2**

Town News Lake County Events

Food for Fines



The Lady Lake Library participated in the Lake County Library System's annual Food for Fines initiative in May, which forgives \$1 of overdue fees for every food item donated.

The Lady Lake Library forgave \$244.40 in fines and collected over 500 items for its local food bank, the Lady Lake Christian Food Pantry, which feeds 350 families each month. Started in 1998, the Food

Pantry is an off-campus ministry of North Lake Presbyterian Church that provides supplemental groceries for families in need in Lady Lake, The Villages, Summerfield and Weirsdale.

Drinking Water Quality Report

Lady Lake releases 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Town of Lady Lake is pleased to announce the release of its 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This comprehensive report is designed to keep residents informed about the quality of their drinking water and the measures taken to ensure it remains safe and dependable.

“Our goal is to provide residents with a reliable supply of high-quality drinking water,” said Public Works Director C.T. Eagle. “We want our community to understand the ongoing efforts we make to safeguard our precious water resources.”

The Town continually monitors for contaminants in drinking water in accordance with state and federal regulations. Lady Lake is proud to report no violations for water quality and full compliance with all federal and state drinking water standards.

Lady Lake's drinking water is sourced from three water treatment plants, which include five wells within the community, drawing from the Floridan Aquifer—one of the most protected aquifers in the world. The water is treated using aeration and chlorination to ensure effective disinfection.

In 2024, the FDEP conducted a Source Water Assessment of the Town's water system. The assessment identified potential sources for contamination as low concern. The assessment results are available for public review online at: <https://prodapps.dep.state.fl.us/swapp>.

The Town also completed an inventory assessment of service line plumbing materials in 2024, continuing into 2025, as part of state and federal efforts to reduce lead exposure. The survey revealed no lead service lines in the Lady Lake water system.

The report also highlights important information about lead in drinking water. Lead is primarily introduced through household plumbing and service lines. While Lady Lake is responsible for providing high-quality water and has removed lead pipes from its system, residents are encouraged to inspect their home plumbing and take steps to minimize exposure. These include using certified filters, flushing taps before use, and using only cold water for drinking or cooking. More information on reducing lead exposure and certified testing options is available through the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Copies of the 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report are available at Town Hall or by contacting Butch Goodman at (352) 751-1526 during regular business hours.

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”.



Found Abandon Properties

The following found or abandoned property will be disposed of according to Florida State Statute 705 on the scheduled purge date unless ownership can be proven. If you have proof of ownership, please contact the Evidence Section at (352) 751-1576.

- A cellphone was recovered on March 29, 2025, at Snooky Park, 120 W. Lady Lake Blvd. It is scheduled for disposal on June 27, 2025.
- A wallet containing a driver's license, Veteran's Administration card, and credit cards was recovered on March 30, 2025, at US Hwy 441 & Hermosa St. It is scheduled for disposal on June 28, 2025.
- A men's ring was recovered on April 2, 2025, at 1403 Paradise Dr. It is

scheduled for disposal on July 1, 2025.

- A bicycle was recovered on April 14, 2025, at 533 Del Mar Dr. It is scheduled for disposal on July 13, 2025.
- An iPad was recovered on May 28, 2025, at 1403 Paradise Dr. It is scheduled for disposal on August 27, 2025.
- A cellphone was recovered on May 31, 2025, at CR 25 & Line Rd. It is scheduled for disposal on August 29, 2025.

If you believe any of these items belong to you, please reach out before the scheduled purge date.

What Say You?
TLourey@att.net

THE GALLERIA OF FINE JEWELRY!



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

God I want to do business with you! I think you have sent me several signs, but life is moving so fast it is hard to tell. My goal is to spread truthful information. In our speed along life world we are going to fast to react to some of the things happening today.

AI is a force to be controlled and no one is sure how to do it. I say it is here and we can't stop it so use it as a tool and don't let it make your decisions, but use it to inform yourself of useful information then make your own educated decisions. I think you should message AI that you made the decision not AI. AI only know's what we teach it and of course there are those that will try to weaponize it. Right now AI is sectionalized to certain businesses or activity's. Like Publishing, war, religion, here is one I think we need to endorse

religion to AI and tell it not to make it's own designs but a board make decisions.

Someone needs to teach AI about religion and god from the Bible with the agreed meaning of things. Not to analyze it but believe it! Study what you teach it with a panel Religious scholars not one person.

There aren't enough hours in the day? Back when Dinosaurs walked the earth there was only 23 hours in the day. The Earth's rotation has been slowing down for billions of years (at least until recently; more on that below).

Young men are turning away from the Democratic Party, citing perceptions that it is weak, out of touch, and dismissive of their concerns, according to new findings from a major research initiative reported by Politico.

The legal citizens that came here legal and got their citizenship papers are joining the Trump effort to get rid of the illegals.

Judicial Watch made history last month when new developments in landmark legal actions led to the inactivation, processing, or removal of more than five million ineligible names from voter rolls nationwide. "Judicial Watch's clean-up of over five million dirty names from voter rolls is a historic achievement for clean elections," said JW President Tom Fitton. "I have no doubt that Judicial Watch's election integrity heavy lifting helped stop the steal in 2024. But there are millions of more names to be removed from voter rolls."

We're not watching the future. We are standing in it!

According a Sheriff talking about the Rioters and paid agitators he said on Fox News TV he thinks that some are being funded by WalMart Heiress. If it is true, how can we stop the flow of money? These gladiator Agitators don't work free. Let's put them in jail and put the person paying them in jail.

DeSantis Passes CS/ HB 4067 - Special Beverage Licenses for Equestrian Sport Facilities in Marion County.

Florida with a \$1.7 trillion economy, Florida has been ranked the #1 state economy in the nation for two years in a row, providing a strong foundation for growth in aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing. DeSantis will visit France during their Paris Air Show to attract

industry for creating high paying jobs. Some two dozen exhibitor from Florida will showing their wares.

As I continue my journey forward, I can't help to think, Trump and Musk are having a planned fight so that the radicals will leave the teslas allow. Maybe Elon should put his robot out to guard the teslas dealerships and armed them with stun guns. Look out Terrorist! The robots might be more lethal than you think.

NEED A BREAK? Read the paper online!



tomlpublishing.com then click on back-issues

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for August

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, July 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, July 27th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

Phone: 352-804-1223 | Email: tloury@att.net

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Wednesday, July 16, 12:30pm

Bob Evans, 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages (near 466a & Morse Blvd)

Lunch provided with Reservation

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FAIRTAX



Many Americans have been celebrating the ascendency of the first

American Pope, Leo XIV. However, that ascendency highlights some problems with the Internal Revenue Code and brings to light an additional reason why we need to eliminate the federal income tax. In an article in Tax Notes, the following information was provided:

* Beyond saving souls, the new pope might need to save his receipts in the event of an IRS audit.

* A primary question arises over the treatment of his papal salary. We don't know exactly how much the pope earns, although it's rumored to be in the vicinity of \$400,000 per year.

* It's unclear whether the pontiff has chosen to accept or decline the salary or to accept and donate the funds to charity. For US tax purposes, a decision to decline salary may not be sufficient to prevent the earnings from being treated as gross income.

* Additional concerns involve the application of section 107 (rental value of parsonage), section 119 (meals and lodging furnished for the convenience of

employees), section 170b (percentage limitations on charitable deductions), section 911 (the foreign earned income exclusion) and section 6039F (the duty to report gifts from non U.S. persons)

* Another batch of issues include compliance with the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, the Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts Report regime and Form 3520 (Annual Return to Report Transactions With Foreign Trusts and Receipt of Certain Foreign Gifts).

* It matters little that the pope is a nonresident of the United States. That's because he's a citizen of the only country in the world that relies on citizenship-based taxation. Most of the rest of the world relies on residence-based taxation.

* What would transpired if people simply declined to file a U.S. tax return and neglected to file an FBAR (Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts)?

* Would the IRS dare to issue a statutory notice of deficiency? Would it slap the pope with extensive FBAR penalties, claiming a willful violation because he is effective owner of the Vatican accounts?

Presently, if you are an American citizen living abroad earning \$400,000 per year and controlling foreign bank accounts, you have an obligation to file a tax return, pay federal income tax and disclose information about

those foreign bank accounts. If you don't then you are subject to significant penalties. If the IRS is going to enforce the law equally, don't they need to hold the pope to the same standard as any other American citizen?

The above information has most likely confused and angered you but it perhaps allows you to understand just how abominable and burdensome our income tax system has become. However, there is

an alternative that eliminates the burden on individual citizens and reduces the burden on businesses by 90%. This alternative is the FAIRtax - a simple, transparent and efficient consumption tax on the retail purchases of new goods and services. It's time to eliminate the federal income tax system and enact the FAIRtax.

For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

Want to Kill the Death Tax?
Only the FAIRtax can Pull the Trigger!

Want to learn more?
Go to: FLfairtax.org or Call 352-804-0007

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FREE Donation Pick-up available:
(352) 589-3005
HABITATLS.ORG

Chair Chat

The no King's protest in Ocala was scheduled on June 14th, which is a day to celebrate the red white and blue, Flag Day. It was also the 250th birthday of the United States Army! Instead, the left is trying to encourage riots in Florida, as what is occurring in LA. We will not permit that in Florida, we enforce law and order. We salute the Ocala police department for their continued service and support of our community. The Marion County Republican executive committee attended the Williston watermelon festival to promote our President's achievements, economic vitality, innovation and economic agility and adherence to constitutional principles. We are a Republic! The real reminder that the REAL No Kings day has been Independence Day, July 4, since 1776!



Anytime Fitness at Bailey Plaza in Summerfield celebrated their remodel with a ribbon cutting. Visit them to learn about how they can help you with your fitness journey.



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LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

Jul 04

Exploration Hike

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Ferndale Preserve in Clermont 7/48/19/510/3 Plus More
Join staff and explore the habitats and species of Ferndale Preserve. Hike intensity: Vigorous. Reservations required.

Jul 04

Star Spangled Spectacular

Friday, July 4th

Ski Beach Park – 201 Dixie Ave, Leesburg, FL 34748

Festivities kick off at 4 PM

Fireworks light up the sky at 9 PM

FREE & open to the public!

Get ready for a red, white, and BOOM

celebration at Leesburg's biggest

Independence Day party! Join us at scenic

Ski Beach Park for an unforgettable

evening featuring:

Live music by the high-energy party band,

Groove Slayers

Delicious food trucks

Merchandise vendors

FREE Carnival Rides

Family fun and patriotic vibes all evening

long. A breathtaking fireworks finale over

Lake Harris at 9 PM

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and

stars-and-stripes spirit—this is a

celebration you don't want to miss!

Want to be a sponsor or merchandise

vendor?

Email specialevents@leesburgflorida.gov

to get involved. Let freedom

ring—Leesburg style!

Jul 05

Wetland Excursion

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Flat Island Preserve in Leesburg

Join us for a fast paced, guided hike at Flat Island Preserve to explore the diverse ecosystems within the Preserve, including the plants and animals. The Office of Parks & Trails manages the County's parks and paved trails, conservation lands, boat ramps, and Blueway trails. These spaces give residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy time outdoors as well as activities like cycling, hiking, bird-watching, and boating.

Jul 06

Exploration Hike

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM P.E.A.R. Park (Gateway) in Leesburg 7/68/39/710/5 Plus More

Join staff on an early evening walk while exploring nature at P.E.A.R. Park. Hike Intensity: Light. Reservations re-quired.

Jul 09

Water Wednesday

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

Discover the diverse plant life found in Florida's wetlands, their ecological significance and how they support the overall health of these ecosystems.

Jul 11

Discover Leesburg

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg (plus more dates)

Join us every 2nd Friday evening of the month on Towne Square in Downtown Leesburg for an unforgettable experi-ence.

What's in Store?

Live Music: Enjoy performances from talented local artists.

Evening Market: Explore unique goods from local vendors and merchants.

Delicious Eats: Savor the flavors of Leesburg with a variety of food and drink options.

Community Fun: Connect with friends, family, and neighbors in a vibrant, festive atmosphere.

Whether you're new to the city or a lifelong resident, Discover Leesburg is the perfect way to celebrate and explore what makes our town special. Don't miss out on the wonders of Leesburg, FL—come join the fun!

Event Details:

When: Every 2nd Friday evening of the month

Where: Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg

Mark your calendars and bring your loved ones for an evening of entertainment, shopping, and community spirit. We can't wait to see you there!

Jul 12

Amphibians

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Pine Meadows

Conservation Area in Eustis

Trek out with park staff to discuss, listen

for and identify frog species. Amphibians

play crucial roles in Florida's wilds. Hiking

Intensity: Light. Reservations Required.

Jul 12

Welcome Home Comedy Show Series

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Hideaway

Performing Arts Theater in Eustis

Get ready to laugh at the Welcome Home

Comedy Show on July 12 at Hideaway

Performance Art Theatre! Hosted by Joe Latham, featuring Big Chip and James Yon, with headliner Devin Siebold. Doors at 6 PM, show at 7 PM. Tickets at www.hideawaypac.com

Jul 19

Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Ellis Acres Reserve in Paisley

Assist staff with surveying one of Lake County's conservation lands for birds and butterflies. These surveys assist with the long term management of the ecosystem

Jul 19

Shoreline and Wetland Plants

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ellis Acres Reserve in Paisley

Hike with staff while learning about some of our shoreline and wetland plant species. Hiking Intensity: Moderate. Reservations Required.

Jul 25

Stories of Water - Wolf Branch Sink

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wolf Branch Sink in Mount Dora 7/2510/24

Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Wolf Branch Sink. Hiking intensity: vigorous.

Jul 26

Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Pasture Reserve in Groveland 7/2611/8

Assist staff with surveying one of Lake County's conservation lands for birds and butterflies. These surveys assist with the long term management of the property. Volunteers should bring their own binoculars.

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Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon

Networking Lunch at The Rose Plantation 150 Rose Ave, Fruitland Park, FL. Networking with Business Professionals, bring a friend!
Door prizes are always welcome



Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?

- **Networking Opportunities**- Connect with business professionals
- **Visibility** - Get noticed in your community
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- **Learning**- Member only speaker series on business topics
- **Give Back**- Volunteer on committees to help the community

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



Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



503-956-8533

(Hawaiian Shirt Day!)

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JULY 2025



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Take & Make Craft Kits Available while supplies last!	1 Tiny Tots 10:30am Family Crafting 3:30p	2 Storytime 10:30am W/ Ms. Bunn Read with Scarlett 3p-4p	3 No Program Today	4 <i>HAPPY 4th of July</i>
Take & Make Craft Kits Available while supplies last!	8 Tiny Tots 10:30am Family Crafting 3:30p	9 Storytime 10:30am Bee Kind program Read with Scarlett 3p-4p	10 Giving Tree Music Drum Circle 10:30am	11 Lego Masters 3:30p-4:30p
Take & Make Craft Kits Available while supplies last!	15 Tiny Tots 10:30am Family Crafting 3:30p	16 Storytime Kids Yoga 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3p-4p	17 Gatorland Reptile Show 10:30am	18 Baby Storytime 10:30am End of Summer Party 3:30p-4:30p
Take & Make Craft Kits Available while supplies last!	22 Tiny Tots 10:30am Family Crafting 3:30p	23 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3p-4p	24	25 Lego Masters 3:30p-4:30p
Take & Make Craft Kits Available while supplies last!	29 Tiny Tots 10:30am Family Crafting 3:30p	30	31 	Hours: Mon 9a-7p Tues-Fri 9a-6p



Lady Lake Public Library Summer Reading Program 2025

Earn Book Bucks for every book you read!
 Log every book read in your summer reading logs.
 Spend your book bucks in our library summer store!

225 W. Guava St
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 Lady Lake Library225
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Vascular Vein, celebrated the opening of their new location in The Villages with a ribbon-cutting. They are located just a few doors down from their old location, now with more space to serve their patients.

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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Reps. Cammack and Hern Introduce Legislation to Protect Patients in Federal Health Programs

WASHINGTON, D C — Today, Representatives Kat Cammack (FL-03) and

Kevin Hern (OK-01) introduced the *Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act* to ensure that Americans with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and rare conditions are not devalued in federal health care decisions. This legislation prohibits the use of Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs)—a metric that assigns lower value to lives with disabilities— in federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and ACA exchanges.

"The use of so-called cost-effective measures like QALYs threatens access to lifesaving care for the most vulnerable Americans," said Congresswoman Cammack. "I am honored to lead this legislation alongside my colleague Rep. Kevin Hern to ensure that no patient is denied treatment simply because a mathematical formula decided their life is worth less. Every American—regardless of disability, chronic illness, or rare condition—deserves equal access to care."

"QALY measurements strip humanity away from a patient, leaving only dollar signs and data points. That has no place in our health care system. Every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect and given the best care available," said Congressman Hern. "I am proud to join Congresswoman Cammack on this bill to ban QALY measurements in all federal health care programs."

"I am excited my colleagues Representatives Cammack and Hern have reintroduced the Protecting Health Care for

All Patients Act," said Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Guthrie. "We owe it to Americans – no matter the age, disability status, or measure of health – to provide high-quality care under federal health care programs. I'm thankful to both of my colleagues for reintroducing this sensible legislation that stops the immoral practice of placing arbitrary value on human life within our health care system."

BACKGROUND:

Last Congress, this legislation passed the House with strong Republican support under the leadership of House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (R-MO), Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), and Rep. Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M. (R-OH).

In the 119th Congress, the legislation will again receive a dual referral to both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

Living Longer? Great! Now Stay Healthier, Too

(NAPSI)—Americans are living nearly a decade longer than they were in the 1970s. That's great news—but staying healthy into your 80s and beyond requires extra care and an eye towards prevention. The protection provided by vaccines plays a key role in helping keep you healthy and preventing severe illness and potential long-term complications, especially for older adults and individuals with immunocompromised conditions.

As people age, their immune system naturally weakens—it becomes slower at recognizing and fighting off viruses. At the same time, lungs become more vulnerable,



A 40% lower risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 for older adults with weakened immune systems

A 33% lower risk of emergency department or urgent care visits from COVID-19 among adults 18 and older

Why It Matters Now

COVID-19 isn't just a seasonal concern—it can surge at any time of the year, including during the spring and summer.

and chronic conditions such as heart disease or diabetes can make it harder to recover from illnesses such as COVID-19. Similarly, people of all ages with weakened immune systems—whether from certain health conditions or medications—face a higher risk of severe illness because their bodies also struggle to mount a strong defense. In both cases, a reduced ability to fight infectious respiratory disease increases the risk of serious complications and hospitalization.

Vaccines Help Keep You Healthy

That's why staying up to date on vaccines—especially for COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory illnesses like flu, measles, pertussis, pneumococcal disease, and RSV—is essential as we head into spring and summer. Vaccination helps boost our body's immune response and provides an added layer of protection when traveling and gathering with friends and family. In fact, according to data from the 2024/2025 season, COVID-19 vaccination was associated with:

A 45% lower risk of hospitalization from COVID-19 for older adults

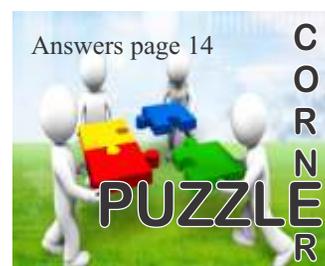
Early in the pandemic, spikes were often associated with colder months, but we now know that outbreaks can occur during any season because the virus keeps changing so it can spread more easily from person to person. This makes staying up to date on vaccination even more important.

Spring into Summer with an Extra Layer of Protection

Immunity from previous doses can wane over time, leaving individuals—especially those 65 and older or with a weakened immune system—more vulnerable to severe illness. If you fall into one of these groups, it's recommended that you receive another dose of the 2024/2025 COVID-19 vaccine six months after your first dose to help maintain protection.

Talk to your healthcare provider to learn whether you should get another dose of the latest COVID-19 vaccine so you can enjoy time with family, travel, and everything else this season brings.

Learn more at: [CVEEP.org/stayprotected](https://cveep.org/stayprotected).



Answers page 14

Across

- 1. Ends of a crescent
- 6. Heroic narrative
- 10. Moore in movies
- 14. Horse trailer
- 15. The euro replaced it
- 16. Tied
- 17. Prepare vegetables
- 18. Blotter blotches
- 20. Mottled inlay material
- 22. Blond shade
- 23. Plot again
- 26. It may be payable (Abbr.)
- 30. Normand of the silents
- 34. Extra-plentiful
- 35. Placates
- 37. Code lead-in
- 39. "___ for Noose" by Sue Grafton
- 40. Paul Hogan classic
- 44. Some switch positions
- 45. Popular musical

- 46. Prepared to pray
- 47. "As ___ on TV"
- 49. Black Panther Bobby
- 52. Norse prose compilation
- 53. Trainees
- 55. Carte or mode preceder
- 57. Conductor with teeth?
- 65. Sup solo
- 67. Tomato product
- 68. Many make a joule
- 69. Hollywood "Citizen"
- 70. Frequently
- 71. Flower fanciers
- 72. Jazzy Getz
- 73. Must have

Down

- 1. Consumer's concern
- 2. Until
- 3. Crystal consulter
- 4. It's before fall
- 5. Upolu locale
- 6. Hebrew prophet
- 7. Tree type
- 8. Ticks off
- 9. The Man in Black
- 10. Casino figure
- 11. Sinister
- 12. Foot or fore attachment
- 13. ___ and outs
- 19. 3x in Rx lingo

- 21. Suffix with skeptic or cynic
- 24. Off the subject
- 25. The euro replaced it
- 26. Approach abruptly
- 27. Art that played Ed
- 28. Stone's throw
- 29. HBO competitor
- 31. Ultralight wood
- 32. Palindrome in poetry
- 33. ___ Zeppelin
- 36. SPCA part
- 38. Seabird
- 41. "___ Boot" (war movie)
- 42. Suffix with social
- 43. Directional abbreviation
- 48. Phrase added on for emphasis
- 50. Type of sail
- 51. "Xanadu" group
- 54. Patty H. kidnapers
- 56. Felonious flames
- 58. Sorts
- 59. Blame bearer
- 60. The "I" in "The King and I"
- 61. Coffee shop
- 62. Mandolin's ancestor
- 63. Tea adjective
- 64. Slop sites
- 65. Ball girl, briefly
- 66. Anger

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FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE



Attorney General Uthmeier Announces 44 Statewide Organized Retail Theft Arrests as Part of Nationwide Blitz Operation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier is

announcing the statewide results of Florida's participation in a nationwide organized retail theft blitz operation. Working with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, authorities made 44 arrests, including three illegal aliens, and recovered more than \$207,000 in stolen assets. The Florida Organized Retail Crime Exchange (FORCE) played a significant role in this crackdown. The nationwide blitz operation targeted criminals, and organized crime rings that prey on retailers. "Due to great coordination among our state law enforcement and Florida Organized Retail Crime Exchange, 44 criminals were arrested as part of a nationwide organized retail theft blitz," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "The rule of law means something in Florida; this is another example of our state working with law enforcement to stop criminals."

"FDLE was proud to take part in the National Organized Retail Crime Blitz in support of Attorney General James Uthmeier's initiative to crack down on retail crime across the state," said FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass. "We are a law-and-order state, and together with our local and state partners are committed to protecting Florida's businesses and communities."

"Florida's retailers deeply value our strong partnership with law enforcement—our most important ally in the fight against organized retail crime,"

said Florida Retail Federation President & CEO R. Scott Shalley. "The success of this nationwide blitz, and Florida's significant role in it, underscores the impact of collaboration through FORCE. We commend Attorney General Uthmeier, FDLE, and all participating agencies for their continued commitment to safeguarding Florida's businesses, employees, and customers from these criminal networks." The defendants stole a range of merchandise, including personal grooming products, clothing, sporting goods, and home repair tools. Founded in 2021, FORCE is a statewide task force and database used to spot trends, identify suspects, and take down massive, organized retail theft rings. The database was designed to bridge the gaps among retailers, law enforcement, and prosecutors by allowing shareable, searchable information on theft incidents statewide.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Supports Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford in Takedown of Illegal Alien Driver's License Scheme

Lynn Haven, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier joined Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford to announce the takedown of an illegal alien driver's license scheme, with eight individuals arrested so far. A joint BCSO and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) operation uncovered two compromised DMV employees offering illegal aliens driver's licenses in exchange for cash.

"Florida's Sheriffs are on the front lines of our state's fight against illegal immigration, and Sheriff Ford is rooting out the corruption they bring into our state," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "My warning to any illegal alien coming to Florida to commit further crimes: we are

going to find you, hold you accountable, and then send you back to where you came from."

"We appreciate our partners that keep our state safe," said Bay County Sheriff Tommy Ford.

Over the course of the investigation, authorities learned that two DMV employees were issuing an unusually large number of driver's licenses. When investigators reviewed the in-house video at the DMV, they confirmed that the individuals receiving the licenses bypassed the required tests to obtain a license legally. These individuals traveled across Florida to Bay County to receive their driver's licenses.

The investigation also uncovered that the individuals coming to the compromised DMV employees to obtain licenses were doing so through a third party operating as intermediaries and were paying Velazco and Smith either in person at the DMV or online through a cash app.

Those arrested include Bancelie Velazco, Demetrius Smith, II, Niurbis Rosales, Leonardo Gutierrez, Hung Du, Isbrieta Parra, Zoila Gonzalez-Pena, and Mirna Fernandez. Charges range from DMV employee issue unlawful driver's license, official misconduct, and unlawful possession of a driver's license.

The investigation continues, and additional charges for the defendants are pending.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Stands with Federal Immigration Enforcement Officers; Announces New Program to Protect Florida's Protectors

Titusville, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier is warning would-be rioters and doxers that violence and intimidation against ICE and Border Patrol officers will not be tolerated in Florida. Over the past several days, violent displays of aggression against those officers occurred in and around Los Angeles, California, where leftist mobs obstructed major roadways, set vehicles on

fire, and looted stores.

"Florida is the anti-riot state, and unlike California, we support law enforcement," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Border Patrol and ICE agents enforcing immigration law deserve protection from leftists trying to harm them. If the left doxes these agents, we will have their backs. Whether you make the poor choice to riot or publish an agent's personal information online to bring harm, you are committing a crime in Florida. We will find you and hold you accountable."

"Peaceful protest is part of our democracy and when it's done right, we will make sure you have a safe environment to do it in!" said Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey. "But if you let it turn violent, you're gonna find out real quick what Brevard County is all about as the crap you see taking place in other parts of the country ain't gonna happen here!!"

"The only sanctuaries in Florida are to protect animals, not criminals," said Florida Highway Patrol Colonel Gary Howze. "Florida is not a sanctuary state."

"Here in Florida, we're going to honor, respect and protect our federal partners and their families," said State Board of Immigration Enforcement Executive Director Larry Keefe.

Attorney General Uthmeier directed the Florida Highway Patrol to partner with federal law enforcement to ensure that if an agent or officer stationed in Florida has private information leaked online by a "doxer," the agent will have a direct line of communication with local FHP leadership. FHP troopers will conduct routine welfare checks on the agent's residence to ensure the safety of the agent and the agent's family.

Attorney General Uthmeier also announced that Florida is the first state in the union to be assigned a 287(g) liaison officer by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. This partnership strengthens Florida's immigration enforcement efforts and provides a direct line of communication between ICE and state and local law enforcement.

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GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida Cabinet Conserve over 78,000 Acres of Conservation Lands
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Ron DeSantis, Attorney General James Uthmeier, and

Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson approved the protection of more than 78,000 acres of lands through Florida, including over 76,000 in rural Florida within the Ocala-to-Osceola Wildlife Corridor. These key acquisitions close the final, major gap in a 100-mile, 1.6-million-acre network of public and private lands connecting the Ocala and Osceola National Forests.

“Under my administration, Florida has significantly expanded its land conservation efforts and today’s conservation is a major milestone for the Florida Wildlife Corridor,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “By prioritizing conservation, we are not only supporting our natural resources, but also our rural economies and the future of our state.”

Since 2019, the state has invested more than \$1.4 billion in land conservation through the [Florida Forever Program](#). This consistent funding has enabled the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to acquire over 374,000 acres for conservation, 90% of which are within the [Florida Wildlife Corridor](#).

“Florida’s conservation efforts are aimed at leaving our home better to God than how we found it,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “Florida’s pristine natural beauty attracts visitors from around the world. Through this acquisition, we closed a major gap in the Wildlife Corridor and protected important agriculture and rural lands.”

“Florida’s continued success depends on our ability to make responsible decisions today that will preserve and protect our land, water, and working resources for generations to come,” said Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson. “The actions approved today reflect exactly that – a commitment to strategic conservation, productive land management, and sustainable resource use. I’m proud to support efforts that not only protect our environment, but also strengthen Florida’s agricultural foundation and rural communities.”

“At DEP, we see the Corridor as the backbone of Florida’s natural landscape,” said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. “It connects our past and our future, supports iconic wildlife, sustains vital ecosystems and preserves a way of life that defines Florida. I am grateful to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature for their continued support to keep protecting natural Florida for generations to come.”

About today’s land acquisition approvals:

A 61,389-acre conservation easement within the Raiford to Osceola Greenway Florida Forever Project in Baker and Union counties will help prevent habitat fragmentation in the Ocala-to-Osceola

Wildlife Corridor and support the long-term sustainability of the working forestland vital to the local economy. Protecting this large landscape tract will also safeguard regional water supply and water quality, support natural ecosystem functions, enhance flood protection and recharge the aquifer. *This property is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.*

A 14,743-acre conservation easement within the Camp Blanding to Raiford Greenway Florida Forever Project in Baker and Bradford counties will provide a critical landscape connection to the Camp Blanding Military Reservation, Jennings State Forest and other conservation lands within the Ocala-to-Osceola Wildlife Corridor. Located in the Suwannee River Basin and Santa Fe River springshed, the property plays a vital role in flood attenuation, groundwater recharge and supporting diverse wildlife habitats. *This property is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.*

A 1,700 acre conservation easement that will connect to an adjacent Rural and Family Lands Protection Program Easement in Alachua, Bradford, Clay and Putnam counties that will protect a multi-generation pine plantation in rural North Florida. The approval represents 128th perpetual easement proposed for acquisition, with a total of approximately 208,629 acres preserved under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ [Rural and Family Lands Protection Program](#), ensuring that working lands remain undeveloped while continuing to support Florida’s agricultural economy.

A 340-acre acquisition within the Annettella Hammock Florida Forever Project in Hernando County will prevent development and enhance connectivity between the Withlacoochee State Forest and the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area. Located along the border of the Springs Coast and Withlacoochee River watersheds, this property helps protect aquifer recharge and maintain water quality and quantity in the region. It will be managed by the Florida Forest Service as an addition to the Withlacoochee State Forest, providing expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation. *This property is within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.*

Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Legislation to Protect Children Against Sexual Crimes

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. —Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed legislation aimed to strengthen protections for children against sexual crimes. “Florida has zero tolerance for criminals who exploit children,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Throughout my time in office, we’ve worked with the legislature to strengthen penalties for child abuse, hold predators accountable, and ensure that Florida remains a safe place to raise a family.”

Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 777, House Bill 1351, House Bill 1455 and House Bill 1161 into law; and committed to signing Senate Bill 1804 into law in the coming days.

House Bill 777 Offenses Involving

Children strengthens Florida’s laws against luring or enticing children. The bill:

- Expands victim age: Applies the offense to any child under 14, instead of a narrower age group.
- Expands offense scope: Includes luring or enticing a child out of a structure, dwelling, or vehicle—not just into one.
- Eliminates certain defenses: Ignorance of the child’s age, misrepresentation of the child’s age and bona fide belief about the child’s age.
- Enhances Penalties: First offense is raised from a 1st-degree misdemeanor to a 3rd-degree felony and second or subsequent offenses are raised from 3rd-degree felony to 2nd-degree felony.

House Bill 1351 Registration of Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders enhances registration, reporting, and verification requirements for sexual predators and offenders in Florida. The bill:

- Enhances initial registration information of sexual offenders. The bill requires registrants report their occupation, business name, employment address, and employment phone number.
- Expands ongoing reporting requirements for sexual offenders. The bill specifies that sexual offenders and predators must report in-state travel residences within 48 hours either online through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)’s online system or in person with the sheriff’s office.
- Establishes address verification by local law enforcement. The bill also establishes that local law enforcement agencies must conduct address verifications of sexual offenders at least one time per calendar year and sexual predators four times per calendar year to ensure the accuracy of the information.

House Bill 1455 Sexual Offenses by Persons Previously Convicted of Sexual Offenses provides mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment for specified sexual offenses when committed by registered offenders or predators. The bill:

- Specifies that a person sentenced under these conditions must be held to the mandatory minimum sentence, even if the sentence exceeds the maximum authorized sentence.
- Specifies that a person sentenced is not eligible for any form of discretionary early release, other than by pardon or conditional medical release, before serving the full minimum sentence.

House Bill 1161, called “Brooke’s Law” in honor of the brave young woman who joined us today to share her experience as the victim of AI-generated explicit imagery – protects victims of digital sexual abuse by providing a clear, enforceable, and swift process to remove exploitative deepfake material from online platforms. The bill:

- Protects victims of digital sexual abuse by ensuring victims of deepfake exploitation have a clear, enforceable process to remove damaging material.
- Holds platforms accountable by establishes a basic duty of care for platforms that profit from user-generated content.
- Requires covered platforms (for example, websites and online services) to remove altered sexual depictions and copies of such depictions from their platform upon request of the victim within 48 hours.
- Prevents legal overreach by maintaining platform immunity for good-faith compliance, avoiding chilling effects on speech or over-moderation.
- Finally, the bill gives platforms room to design their own processes, while enforcing a baseline level of accountability.

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Inside Trump Towers

Our traveling reporter went to Trump Tower covering the Trump Mobile Announcement. The pictures that were provided were taken in real time during the Announcement and Interviews

Monday. Trump Mobile is operated by the Trump Organization by Eric & Donald Jr.

Trump Mobile provides voice, text and data on all three major carriers. Other options and features as unlimited

International calling to over 100 countries, phone service to 200 international destinations, telehealth, towing services and optional insurance for mobile devices. Customer service is US based available 7

days a week 8:00am-9:00pm central time.

Other benefits to be announced by Trump Mobile.

