

AI Can Target Emergency Area For Warnings

Hi AI
Can you set up a local emergency alert system for a fifty mile radius for a flood?
From TomL

In my opinion they need to build Cell tower while rebuilding along the flood area! To make sure emergency alerts work. They could even put sirens on the towers.

I ask AI if a localized (50 miles or less) emergency alert with that blast sound that goes through you, could it be set up. What was in place in Texas was not effective for a disaster like this.

Here what AI's response was.

Yes, AI and related technologies can help localize emergency alerts within a 50-mile radius, and in fact, systems like Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) already do so with a high degree of accuracy.

Here's how this is achieved:

- Geographic Targeting: Emergency alert systems leverage technologies like GPS and cellular signals to pinpoint the locations of mobile devices. This allows authorities to define specific alert zones, such as a 50-mile radius around an incident.

- Wireless Emergency Alerts: WEA is a primary method for delivering location-based emergency alerts to mobile devices, even when cellular networks are congested.

Authorized agencies send alerts through the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to participating wireless providers, who then transmit the alerts to compatible phones within the targeted area. Wireless providers use geofencing to define the target area and deliver alerts to devices within it, with minimal overshoot.

- AI for Localization and Customization: AI plays a role in enhancing these systems. It can be trained with local hazard data to generate messages specific to potential threats in a particular area. This helps tailor alerts to the audience's location, demographics, and language preferences, making them more relevant and understandable. For instance, AI can be used to set different alert thresholds based on distance from an event, such as an immediate evacuation order within 5 kilometers of a wildfire and a "prepare to evacuate" message for those between 5 and 15 kilometers away.

In essence, the combination of location technologies like GPS, cellular networks, and platforms like IPAWS, along with the increasing capabilities of AI, enables the highly localized and accurate delivery of emergency alerts within a specific radius, like the 50-mile example you provided.

School Systems & What We Teach

By TomL

I love the CEP series about the schools interview with Lori Conrad. Many years ago while Obama was in office the Obama team led by Micheal Obama decided every child needed a college education.

So meanwhile while they were going through high school some passed algebra or trigonometry. I took a poll of people and ask 20 people if they had ever used either of these subjects in their lives. 99% said no never used it, one said he did, he was a pilot. They said that students had to pass algebra to graduate. They were stuck, who do they go to if they can't do a math problem. "Their parents? Their parents had never had it in school so many children got discouraged and just quite. They were left behind only to finish their high school education outside the school system. Are beginning to get the point. Then COVID hit!

Back then I started saying we needed to look at the curriculum, it was then I started saying in my papers that it would not work. Boys and Girls or men and women graduate from college and there was not enough jobs requiring a college education. Who is going to drive trucks? Who is going to do jobs that you does not require a college degree. Of course the college graduate does not want to drive a truck or work in construction so they

don't take a job that back then for \$5 or \$6 per hour. After all they were a college graduate so the one's without jobs floundered for a while until they had to take a job they did not want or starve. They applied their learning skills and wound up OK!

A hundred years ago when I was in school we had a choice, very semi-liar to what Lori Conrad is proposing as listed in your story / interview

- Employment
- College enrollment
- Military
- Entrepreneurship

I would like them to consider Agriculture also. 99% of the students coming out of FFA or 4-H have had some good growing up training. The responsibility of taking care of animals which is our future food products and our future farmers and ranchers, they must keep record books which shows planning, some times building a pen and actually adding up all expenses for the animal they raise and showing it in their book. The book's are graded by some of our leaders in the community.

I think we are not paying enough attention to this area in Marion County Florida. Look what Congress woman Kat Cammack is doing. She is looking out for farmers in Florida. I think we need to also.



CEP Ocala Metro is Named Finalist Top in the State.

The Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) was honored this week as a finalist for the 2025 Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). The Chamber of the Year award, presented by GrowthZone, is the most prestigious recognition in the chamber industry, celebrating outstanding leadership, impactful programs, and community advancement efforts.

Winners were announced on Wednesday, July 23, during the Awards Show at ACCE's Annual Convention in Philadelphia, and while the Ocala Metro CEP was not selected as this year's overall winner, being named a finalist places the organization among the top chambers in the country.

"We are incredibly proud to be recognized as a finalist for this national honor," said Tamara Fleischhaker, Interim CEO of the Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership. "This distinction is a testament to the strength of our business community, the dedication of our team, and the bold, collaborative work happening across the Ocala Metro to create a more prosperous future."

The rigorous selection process for Chamber of the Year evaluates chambers on organizational strength, member services, and community leadership. Finalists were chosen based on written applications and performance benchmarks, then interviewed

by a panel of experienced chamber professionals.

The Ocala Metro CEP was recognized for two major initiatives: the creation of the Ocala Metro Catalyst Fund, Inc. (OMCF)—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on expanding access to capital and entrepreneurship opportunities for underserved populations—and the CEP's leadership in the successful renewal of dual sales tax referenda, securing critical funding for infrastructure, public safety, and community development.

"While we didn't bring home the title this time, being named a finalist affirms the impactful work our team and partners are doing every day," Fleischhaker added. "We are energized by this recognition and committed to continuing to lead with vision and purpose."



CEP CHAMBER NEWS
Forward Momentum



Horses In
the Heart of
It All

Forward
Momentum
By Tamar
Fleischhaker
In Ocala, horses
are more than just

a backdrop—they're the rhythm of daily life, the foundation of local identity, and the lifeblood of a multi-billion-dollar economy. But thanks to the CEP's Equine Initiative, they're also becoming a source of inspiration for the next generation. What began as a simple effort to educate business partners about the equine industry's scope has grown into something far greater, a community-wide movement that reaches classrooms, sidewalks, and civic events.

Where Hooves Meet Literacy: In a county with more than 80,000 horses, not every child has the chance to meet one. But that's exactly what happens through the CEP's literacy outreach, developed in partnership with Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses. These tiny, trained therapy horses visit schools to promote reading, kindness, and confidence. The result is a heartwarming experience where children, some reading aloud for the first time without fear, share books with a patient four-legged listener by their side. This unique program doesn't just teach literacy—it fosters empathy, curiosity, and a newfound love of horses among students who may never have had that opportunity otherwise.

Celebrating Legacy In Bronze: Beyond the classroom, the CEP has brought the spirit of Ocala's equestrian history into the heart of downtown. In collaboration with the City of Ocala and the Ocala-Marion County Visitors and Convention Bureau, a growing number of bronze sidewalk plaques now pay tribute to influential horses and horsemen who have helped shape the community. The plaques form a self-guided tour of Ocala's equine legacy—one that invites both visitors and lifelong residents to learn more about the champions, bloodlines, and pioneers that earned the region its global nickname: The Horse Capital of the World®.

Events That Spark Wonder: Community events have also become a vibrant part of the Equine Initiative's mission. From career expos that showcase opportunities in animal science and farm management to all-breed parades and hobby horse equestrian games, the CEP has found countless ways to bring horses and people together. These aren't just events—they're gateways. Whether you're a second-grader dreaming of being a vet or a retiree seeing a Paso Fino for the first time, these touchpoints make the equine world feel accessible.

Growth Through Partnership: Much of the initiative's expansion has been made possible by the steadfast support of Pyranha Animal Health, which came on board as presenting sponsor several years ago. Their involvement has allowed the CEP to scale its programming, extend its advocacy reach,

Continued page 6

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MCREC V. Chair

Ken Racioppi

This is a summary we used for a recent REC meeting, again student performance is affected by a multiple factors so the DOE 2025 data is one dimension of student innate skills. However, the data provides insight to the symptoms that many of the County student skills are lagging.

We focused on third grade since education experts (not me) indicated this grade is a key marker for future success as students transition from learning to read to learning to learn. Below is a “snip-it” copy of the summary for the meeting / I have also provided a ppt of the charts of state data (2025 DOE) we used to further our discussion of ways the REC could support our schools.

All the data taken directly from the DOE website excel tables for Marion County, just plotted the table into graphs of Level 1 and Level 2 student test data percentages, obviously there are many students on and above grade level across the County.

Feel free to contact Brigitte Smith or Len Racioppi if there are any questions.

From Donald J Trump

The Golden Age of America begins right now. From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation, and we will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of any longer. During every single day of the Trump administration, I will very simply put America first. Our sovereignty will be reclaimed. Our safety will be restored. The scales of justice will be rebalanced. The vicious, violent and unfair weaponization of the Justice Department and our government will end. And our top priority will be to create a nation that is proud, prosperous and free. America will soon be greater, stronger and far more exceptional than ever before.

Reinstating Tomato Tariffs

Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) released the following statement following the U.S. Department of Commerce's termination of the 2019 Suspension Agreement on fresh tomatoes from Mexico:

“For far too long, American tomato growers—especially those in Florida—have been forced to compete against artificially low prices driven by unfair trade practices,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “The termination of this agreement sends a clear message: we're standing up for American farmers and restoring integrity to our agricultural markets. Food security is national security. Our farmers deserve a fair shot to compete—and this marks a critical step forward in making that possible. I am grateful to the Trump Administration and Secretary Lutnick for their unwavering support.”

Background:

Florida is one of the nation's largest tomato-producing states, and growers have long raised concerns about the impact of dumped Mexican imports on their ability to stay in business. The 2019 Suspension Agreement halted anti-dumping duties on

Mexican tomatoes in exchange for price and volume restrictions from Mexican exporters. With yesterday's decision, those duties will now go into effect, with most imports subject to a 20.91% tariff. This decision is widely seen as a victory for domestic agriculture and a meaningful step toward fairer trade enforcement.

“Yesterday's decision is an enormous victory for American tomato farmers and American agriculture. We're grateful for the decisive, bold, and crucial action taken by the Trump administration to terminate the U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement,” said Florida Tomato. “This decision will protect hardworking American tomato growers from unfair Mexican trading practices and send a strong signal that the Trump administration is committed to

ensuring fair markets for American agriculture. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick recognized that five previous agreements with Mexico had failed and that strong enforcement of U.S. trade laws is needed to protect the stability of our food supply chain. We would also like to thank Rep. Kat Cammack and all our champions in Congress, tomato growers from across the country, and allied organizations from different regions, commodities, and states representing a broad cross-section of fruit and vegetable growers in the United States.”

“Today marks a significant victory for growers across the U.S. The termination of the 2019 Tomato Suspension Agreement by the administration signals a positive movement toward fairer competition, not only for tomato growers but for all specialty

crop producers nationwide. For too long, unfair Mexican tomato imports have been dumped into the U.S. market, injuring the U.S. industry,” said the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. “This action demonstrates that U.S. trade laws can protect American farmers and ensures that U.S. consumers have access to locally grown fruits and vegetables. We are grateful for the relentless advocacy of Congresswoman Kat Cammack and the Florida Congressional Delegation to level the playing field for growers. The future of the industry is stronger without the undue pressures of unfair foreign trade.”

“We are grateful to Congresswoman Cammack for her tireless efforts to ensure the voices of growers, trade officials, and industry leaders were heard,” said Tony

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Edward Jones

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Well the Republicans are getting it done. I would like to point out this tariff problem is something that needed done, but not without resistance. The Brits and a few other country's think they

have a better way. So they are trying to build a trade alliance with others but without us. It has not been fair that all these countries have been importing into our country free and charge us when we export to their country. Trump is negotiating hard, it is going slow but it will happen. To slow for me I can't wait.

I notice that Trump is always fiscally leaning in, never leaning back in comfort and is always listening. People seem to respond to that. People need to be listened to, some of the strongest people I have know are good listeners.

In this high speed world you need people around you can trust and that can keep you informed and help with challenges. I recently had a challenge when lightening struck in my front yard. It wiped out my security light, Satellite system, Wifi, computer, printer. I had a problem, as I worked my way through this challenge, I needed to recover some information off my old computer. I called Tech Brothers Ocala Florida hwy 200. I took my computer in and they said they were optimistic about the recovery. The price was not bad and recovery was important. They got it for me fast. They fixed it high speed in this high speed world. Thank you Tech Brothers for the well done job. Tell them TomL sent you.

Fraud.... My wife received a call from someone saying they were the credit Berea it was about someone trying to open a credit card in her name to buy \$11,000 worth of Bit coins. They said they were trying to verify

her information. YES they wanted it all including her social. First they try to scare you then they ask you a lot of questions. One banker said, they will try to black mail you. If you ask their name they give a name that is not real. Finally we hung up on them. They were using Bank of America name.

I called the Bank of America and they said that is not real. They said they would not call, they would tex or email to contact them. They would not ask for information they already have it. They had our address, Her name and they ask her age and they had the last four numbers of her social they ask for the first four which would not give them.

BEWARE they are out there, they lie, they make up stories, they will tell you anything to get your information. DO NOT TELL THEM ANYTHING! If you do not recognize the phone number don't not answer it. No telephone solicitors, No to someone that wants you to donate or send money.

FRAUD Take a survey and win a Cobalt Tool set. It had LOWES name on it and logo. You take the survey and when you give them a credit card number for shipping your credit card is denied. They have your credit card information and then they sell it to their friends. It is fraudulent and the people collecting the information think they are not braking the law but they are!!! IT is illegal use of information.

I have been saying for years...Do business with people you know or people (friends) that recommend a person not a business. A person you will have to face you sooner or later.

I just got through complaining about a restaurant charging a surcharge without asking for permission. I told them the food was good but the surcharge left a bad taste in my mouth. I will not go back.

Early warning was sent out but there was no system in place. People who had their cell phone had turned off the alert system. Probably because it is not localized. I know I get warnings waking me about something that happened 300 miles away. We should get alerts for Marion , Sumter, and Lake Countys and national alerts. We spend a lot of money for that system so they need to localize it. If the alerts had been heard a lot of campers might have been saved. When camping on the river years ago we had a small flash flood. The river we were camping on rose about 2 or 3 feet in minutes. I remember people while camping keep their water melon cold by putting it in the river. So when we got flooded out of our camp site I saw Watermelons six-packs washing by, a cooler and various thing people were trying to keep cold. We slept on higher ground that night. As a Florida boy I was not use to floods unless there was a

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for September

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, August 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, August 27th

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

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

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FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



**C a m m a c k ,
Gonzales Lead Letter
Urging HHS to Fast-
Track Livestock
Treatment Approvals
Washington, D.C.**
—Congresswoman
Kat Cammack (FL-03)
and Congressman
Tony Gonzales (TX-

23) led a group of Republican lawmakers in sending a letter to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. urging coordination between HHS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and pharmaceutical manufacturers to fast-track approvals and labeling of anti-parasitic treatments for livestock in response to the outbreak and growing threat of a New World Screwworm (NWS) infestation in Mexico.

The letter highlights the serious health and economic risks posed by NWS, which is moving north through Mexico and approaching the U.S. border. Lawmakers are urging HHS to expedite approvals for antiparasitic treatments—such as ivermectin, doramectin, permethrin, and coumaphos—that are proven effective abroad but lack proper U.S. labeling. They cite the successful 2016 emergency approval of doramectin as a model and call for coordinated action with USDA and EPA to match USDA's new five-prong strategy, including the sterile fly facility planned in S o u t h T e x a s .

“Time is of the essence, as there are safe, effective treatments already in use around the world that U.S. producers cannot legally deploy because of outdated or incomplete labeling. By working hand-in-hand with USDA and EPA, HHS can cut through bureaucratic red tape to ensure that veterinarians, ranchers, and wildlife managers have the tools they need before an outbreak hits,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “For months, Congressman Gonzales and I have been actively engaged in combatting this threat. Over a month ago, we hosted a roundtable with fellow members

of Congress, major stakeholders, and partners to determine the best path forward. We've developed an action plan and are working with our partners to execute executive and legislative action. It is now time for action at the federal level to match that urgency.”

“Fast-tracking approvals for anti-parasitic treatments for livestock is another important step we must take to protect our livestock industry from the New World screwworm. From introducing the STOP Screwworms Act and leading funding efforts through my seat on the House Appropriations Committee to working alongside USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins to launch a facility focused on screwworm eradication efforts—I am determined to do everything possible to eliminate this deadly parasite,” said Congressman Tony Gonzales. “Thank you, Rep. Kat Cammack, for your partnership in moving forward critical treatments to protect America's livestock.”

U.S. House Passes One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Washington, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives passed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act—a historic package that secures our border, cuts taxes, strengthens rural communities, and delivers real results for Americans. Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) released the following statement following its passage:

“Florida's Third District is home to hardworking families, first responders, small businesses, and rural communities—and this bill reflects their priorities.

It permanently extends the Trump Tax Cuts, preventing the largest tax hike in U.S. history. Without these provisions, more than 452,000 taxpayers in FL-03 would face higher rates, over 81,000 families would see their Child Tax Credit cut in half, and local small businesses and farms would be devastated by rising taxes. This bill stops that.

It also puts money back in families' pockets by eliminating federal taxes on tips,

overtime, and car loan interest. It protects rural hospitals, cleans up waste in programs like SNAP and Medicaid, and ensures benefits go to those who truly need them—not illegal immigrants or elite institutions gaming the system.

Most importantly, this bill secures our southern border with the strongest enforcement measures in a generation—deploying new technology, adding more boots on the ground, and reinstating policies that stop the flow of illegal crossings and fentanyl at the source.

This is what Americans voted for last November. They demanded tax relief, secure borders, and real accountability in Washington, and that's exactly what this bill delivers. This is what the America First agenda looks like, and I'm proud to support it.”

House Passes Bipartisan Bill to End Organ Transplant Discrimination Against Individuals with Disabilities

Washington, D.C. — The .S. House of Representatives passed the *Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act*, a landmark, bipartisan bill that protects Americans with disabilities from being denied life-saving organ transplants solely based on their disability. This legislation, sponsored by Representatives Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI-06), ensures that disability is never used as a barrier to receiving critical medical care.

This bill upholds, clarifies, and builds upon protections established under the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, and Section 1557 of the *Affordable Care Act*. It prohibits discrimination by covered entities—including hospitals, transplant centers, and insurance providers—in the organ transplant process.

Specifically, the *Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Act* bars the following actions solely based on disability:

- Determining that an individual is ineligible to receive an organ transplant
- Denying an organ transplant or related medical services
- Refusing to refer an individual to a transplant center

- Declining to place an individual on a transplant waiting list
- Denying insurance coverage for a transplant or related services

“Baby Zion, a young infant with Down syndrome in Florida's Third Congressional District, was denied a lifesaving heart transplant in 2021, and passed away. His life was worth saving, and we're fighting to end discrimination in the organ transplant system so the same thing never happens again,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “I am honored to work alongside Congresswoman Dingell and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in safeguarding the rights of those with disabilities.”

“It's unthinkable that people with disabilities are passed over for life-saving transplants based on discriminatory and subjective assumptions about their ability to comply with post-operative care,” said Congresswoman Dingell. “This bill takes important action to ensure that all Americans, regardless of disability status, receive equitable access to the care they need. I'm thankful to Rep. Kat Cammack for her partnership, and most of all, I'm thankful to Charlotte for her incredible energy, advocacy, and commitment to making a positive change. I'm glad to see it one step closer to becoming law. We need to get it done.”

Background:

Named for Charlotte Woodward, an adult with Down syndrome who received a lifesaving heart transplant over a decade ago, the bill also recognizes the importance of auxiliary aids and services, the ability of an individual's support network to assist with post-operative care, and the need for reasonable modifications to policies and procedures to make organ transplant systems and facilities more accessible to those with disabilities.

Rep. Cammack's inspiration for introducing the legislation is Baby Zion Sarmiento, from Ocala, Florida. Zion was born with Down syndrome and a heart defect in June 2021. After spending 40 days in the NICU and enduring five open-heart surgeries, Zion passed away after being denied a heart transplant because of his disability.

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Frank Turner	Promotions	Leda Perez	Mental Health
Walter Krumm	Walts Brake & More	Tom Loury	Digital Newspapers

CEP

Continued from page 2
and amplify community exposure.

Building A Future Workforce: The Ocala/Marion County equine industry is a powerhouse, contributing over \$4.3 billion annually and employing nearly 29,000 people in diverse roles, from breeding and training to logistics, event operations, and veterinary care. The CEP's Equine Initiative serves as a national model for how regional pride, industry support, and community engagement can come together to create lasting impact. Its timing couldn't be better as we focus on cultivating the future workforce for this vital sector, ensuring a skilled and robust talent pipeline to drive this industry forward.

In this community, the story of the horse isn't just about where we've been—it's about where we're going.

PULLQUOTES:
Horses are more than just a backdrop. They're the lifeblood of a multi-billion-dollar economy.
A simple effort to educate businesses about the equine industry has grown into something far greater.

Publisher Notes

Continued from page 4
hurricane.

I think there is an important message here for the cell phone industry.
The cell phone in most places have an alert system to say something important is happening. The problem is most of alerts are 300 miles away. If we could figure out how to localize it on a cell phone alert to a fifty miles or less we could have save a lot of lives in Texas.

Maybe AI can figure it out?
My thoughts are they need to connect the Weather bureau to the cell phone disaster alert/ radios stations / TV stations ALL CHANNELS and all systems alert configured in fifty mile radius. But we need to keep the national danger alert.

Billy Woods
Woods is the Marion County Sheriff. Active in his community, he currently serves as the Secretary of the Florida Sheriff's Association and is a Commissioner for the Commission of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Woods earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration and business management from Columbia Southern University.

Bug Squad



Ends Aug. 30
Every bug – and every person – has unique abilities and traits that make them super. Bug Squad will create excitement about learning by immersing children in an exhibit inspired by fictitious superheroes and factual science. In this imaginative world, insects don't just have super abilities, they are real superheroes! Kids will be introduced to a squad of uniquely characterized bugs that are designed to inspire a love for science and an appreciation for diversity.
Bug Squad was produced by Omaha Children's Museum. Omaha Children's Museum is a special place where children can challenge themselves, discover how the world works and learn through play. The mission of Omaha Children's Museum is to engage the imagination and create excitement about learning.

Discovery Center

Field Trip Add-On Programming
StarLab Planetarium
Explore the wonders of the night sky, tour the solar system and hear the myths behind our favorite constellations in our inflatable planetarium set up in the exhibit gallery. Up to 25 people can be accommodated with on-floor seating. ADA access is available and chairs can be made available upon request.
Animal Meet & Greet
Get to know some of our animal residents with a hands-on presentation. Students will have an opportunity to get up-close and even touch a few of our animals.
Animal Adaptations
Discover more about how animals adapt to their surroundings with a series of hands-on classroom activities that will challenge students from a new perspective.
NASA Space
Description: NASA Space is the classroom version of our StarLab Planetarium. Travel across our solar system on the big screen! Ask your curiosities about space while getting up close to our planets and let your imaginations run wild. Ideal for groups larger than 25.



Wildlife Ambassador Oath
I will protect wildlife, preserve their natural habitats, and leave our city parks better than I found them.
1. Don't feed wildlife. Feeding animals outside of their natural diet can damage their health.
2. Keep your distance. View animals with a camera or binoculars.
3. Feeding animals may cause them to become aggressive towards humans.
4. Put trash in proper places to keep our parks clean and safe for the animals.
5. Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

The Reilly Arts Center

The Reilly Arts Center welcomes a variety of national and local artists for performances of rock, blues, soul and classical in August and September. Unless otherwise indicated, events are held at the Reilly Arts Center located at 500 NE 9th St. Ocala, FL 34470. Tickets can be purchased at reillyartscenter.com or by contacting the Reilly Arts Center box office at (352) 351-1606. Box office hours are 10 AM – 2 PM, Tuesday through Friday. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Reilly Arts Center during box office hours.
Unlimited Devotion: Celebrating the Music of the Grateful Dead
Friday, August 8, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Tickets from \$28
Get ready to jam with *Unlimited Devotion*, Florida's premier Grateful Dead tribute band! Blending the spirit of the Dead with their own jazz and funk influences, UD delivers high-energy, exploratory performances that keep fans coming back for more. From massive block parties to packed venues, this South Florida quintet brings the groove—and the good vibes—every time they hit the stage!
Press Images Available.

Girls Night: The Musical
Saturday, August 9, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Tickets from \$40
Grab your friends and get ready to laugh, cry, and dance in the aisles—*GIRLS NIGHT: THE MUSICAL* is the ultimate night out! This Off-Broadway hit follows five friends on a hilarious and heartfelt journey through love, loss, and friendship, all set to a soundtrack of favorite hits like “It's Raining Men,” “I Will Survive,” and “Man! I Feel Like a Woman.” It's *Mamma Mia* meets *Sex and the City*—and it's a party you don't want to miss!
Press Images Available.

The Great American Soulbook
Saturday, August 16, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Get ready to groove with *The Great American Soulbook*—a high-energy celebration of Motown, R&B, and soul music that spans the decades! Featuring choreographed male vocalists, powerhouse female leads, and a full band, this unforgettable show brings the hits of legends like The Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, and Luther Vandross to life. It's feel-good, dance-in-your-seat music that'll have every generation singing along!
Press Images Available.

Tickets from \$34
Get ready to groove with *The Great American Soulbook*—a high-energy celebration of Motown, R&B, and soul music that spans the decades! Featuring choreographed male vocalists, powerhouse female leads, and a full band, this unforgettable show brings the hits of legends like The Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, and Luther Vandross to life. It's feel-good, dance-in-your-seat music that'll have every generation singing along!
Press Images Available.

Classic Albums Live: Bob Marley "Legend"
Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Tickets from \$34
Experience rock perfection with *Classic Albums Live*, where world-class musicians recreate iconic rock albums live on stage—*note for note, cut for cut*. The first half delivers the album in its entirety; the second half rocks the artist's greatest hits. No costumes, no gimmicks—just pure, unforgettable music.
Press Images Available.
(RENTAL)
WindFM Rocks the Reilly: Titans of Rock
Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 7:30 PM
Tickets from \$25
Get ready to rock with *Wind-FM Rocks the Reilly's Titans of Rock*! This powerhouse tribute brings the epic anthems of *Journey* and *Bon Jovi* to life in one electrifying show. From “Don't Stop Believin'” to “Wanted Dead or Alive,” you'll be transported back to the golden age of arena rock with spot-on vocals, killer musicianship, and nonstop energy. Two legendary bands—*one unforgettable night*!
Presented by WindFM
Press Images Available.

Tasha Robinson: Bach to Zeppelin with 94 Strings!
Sunday, August 24, 2025 at 3 PM
Tickets from \$28
Experience a one-of-a-kind concert with Ocala Symphony's Tasha Robinson as she sings and tells stories through the sounds of A B B A , B a c h , a n d L e d Zeppelin—performed on stunning 94-string acoustic and electric harps!
Press Images Available.

REC Marion County Meeting
The REC Marion County Monthly Meeting, will be held at Ocala Golf Banquet room located at 3130 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34470 FL, Monday July 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6 PM. Next Month's meeting at Ocala Golf Banquet Room on Monday Aug. 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6 PM.

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Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Leda Pérez, who has been named the new Executive Director of the Frank DeLuca YMCA. A strong communicator and coach, Leda has a proven track record in program development, team leadership, and community engagement. Her passion for wellness and her people-centered leadership style make her a fantastic fit for our community Y family.

Leda and her family are excited to continue to serve our Ocala community and continue to be engaged and involved with Ocala Business Leaders.

We Endorse These People

In this fast pace world I urge you to do business with people first. Take the time to call and get their opinion and or price.

Take the time to know the business people around you.

TALK TO STRANGERS! They might be a customer?

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If your curious about anything on Health Insurance

Call Christine 352-572-8510

email: ccalvert@guidedmedicare.com

If you are curious about Life Insurance

Call Eddie 352-634-4793

email: levinlifeinsurance@gmail.com

If you want to create memories

Call Walk Don't Run Travel Sue 352-400-1721

email: travel@walkdontrunllc.com

If you are curious about reverse mortgage

Call Dan 352-462-0636

email: dan@primepathlending.net

If you are curious about selling your business

Call Connie 352-502-3811

email:

connie@ocalabusinessbrokers.com

If you are curious about Fair Tax

Email: emmaiellaro@icloud.com

If you are curious about advertising

Call Tom 352-804-1223 (it is tax deductible)

email: tloury@att.net

If your curious Beyond Business Contracts

Tania Bartolini

Phone 352-509-5269

Watch Team Waiting for Results of Competition



To mark this exciting occasion, 18 South graciously hosted the Ocala Metro CEP staff, Board of Directors, and special guests in their beautiful Members Lounge for a special Watch Party Celebration. Guests enjoyed delicious food and drinks, sponsored by Zinnia Wealth Management,

as we gathered to celebrate our finalist recognition for Chamber of the Year and honor the incredible work of the CEP team. It was a night full of pride, community, and well-deserved recognition!

Some Money DOGE Identified as Waste

- \$1.1 billion for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), including NPR and PBS
- \$135 million to the World Health Organization
- \$18 million to improve gender diversity in Mexican street lighting
- \$4.4 million for a Melanesian Youth Climate Corps
- \$3.9 million for LGBTQI+ advocacy in the Western Balkans
- \$2.5 million to teach children about

environmentally friendly “reproductive health” choices

- \$300,000 for a pride parade in Lesotho
- \$500,000 for electric buses in Rwanda
- \$500,000 for a gender equality and empowerment hub
- \$33,000 for LGBT programming in the Caribbean
- \$8,000 to promote vegan food in Zambia

TOMATOES!

By Tom.

Dania Florida 1950's use to be the Tomato growing town in Florida. The east marsh was where they grew some of the best tomatoes. When I was very young we lived a block from the tomato packing house. Residents could go to the packing house and receive free tomatoes that were to ripe to ship but for eating them the next three or four days they were perfect. At about twelve I would take a bubbled brown grocery bag and walk there and ask for tomatoes and receive what ever I could carry back home.

Grand mother was living there watching us while our parents worked out of town. She would cook them down, make sauce and what ever. It was a free source of food.Dania Florida which is now called Dania Beach Florida had its own catchup factory. I never went into it the outside did not look like much. It looked like an old metal building with a couple of loading docks.

We had tomatoes day parades, tomato fight in a street they blocked off, by the cheerleaders from school. My older sister was in the the tomato fight. The tom atom wound up in the grandstand and got the crowd of watchers. They had grease pole climb, Pie eating contest and many other things going on. It was the largest annual event in town.

Latest action 75 years later all the land is developed in Dania Beach, but Florida is given a treat, our Congress woman and others are fight for the the Tomato growing industry. I love tomatoes it was an important food as I grew up.

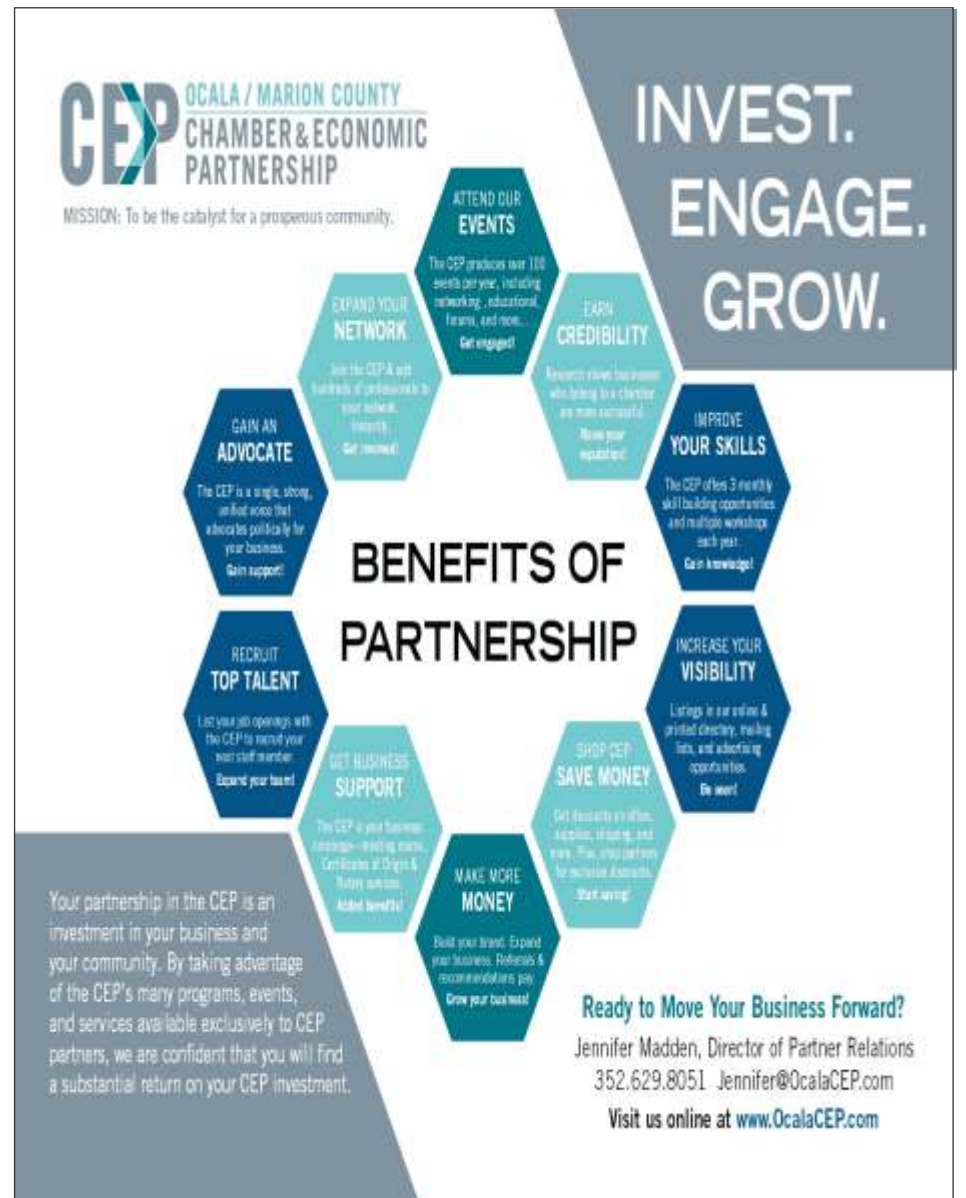
PRESS RELEASE

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) released the following statement following the U.S. Department of Commerce's termination of the 2019 Suspension Agreement on fresh tomatoes from Mexico: *“For far too long, American tomato growers—especially those in Florida—have been forced to compete against artificially low prices driven by unfair trade practices,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “The termination of this agreement sends a clear message: we’re standing up for American farmers and restoring integrity to our agricultural markets. Food security is national security. Our farmers deserve a fair shot to compete—and this marks a critical step forward in making that possible. I am grateful to the Trump Administration and Secretary Lutnick for their unwavering support.”*

Background

Florida is one of the nation's largest tomato-producing states, and growers have long raised concerns about the impact of dumped Mexican imports on their ability to stay in business. The 2019 Suspension Agreement halted anti-dumping duties on Mexican tomatoes in exchange for price and volume restrictions from Mexican exporters. With yesterday's decision, those duties will now go into effect, with most imports subject to a 20.91% tariff. This decision is widely seen as a victory for domestic agriculture and a meaningful step toward fairer trade enforcement.

YAAAAAH! TomL said that.



FAIRTax



A newly released national survey of registered voters reveals a bipartisan majority of

Republicans (69%), Democrats (52%) and Independents (51%) support the idea of replacing the current income tax system with a national sales tax. Also, 50% of voters surveyed support the elimination of the IRS.

Conducted by Quantus Insights and commissioned by the National Tax Research Committee, the poll suggests that Americans, particularly younger and working-class voters, are increasingly open to bold structural changes in how the federal government collects revenue.

At a time of continued economic uncertainty and public dissatisfaction with federal institutions, 58% of voters say they would support a national consumption tax that allowed workers to retain their paychecks without federal withholding. This proposal, central to the FAIRtax Plan (Hr25), envisions eliminating income, payroll, corporate, capital gains and estate taxes and replacing them with a single, visible sales tax applied at the point of retail purchase. While long discussed in academic and political circles, the FAIRtax concept appears to be gaining traction with the public.

The survey finds that support for abolishing the IRS is equally notable. Exactly half of all respondents endorsed the idea with enthusiasm especially strong among voters under the age of 30, where support rises to 60%. Working-class voters without college degrees also expressed above-average support indicating the appetite for reform is not confined to any one ideological segment.

While the divide between Republican and

Democratic voters is pronounced - nearly two-thirds of Republicans favor eliminating the IRS, compared to just over one-third of Democrats - the presence of bipartisan openness to re-form is striking.

However, support is not without reservations. Concerns over fairness and affordability remains high, particularly among older Americans, women, Democrats and voters with post-graduate degrees. Many worry that a national sales tax could increase prices or fall disproportionately on low-income households, despite the inclusion of a monthly rebate in the FAIRtax proposal intended to offset taxes on basic necessities. These concerns suggest that while Americans are open to change, they are also seeking assurance that a new system would be implemented equitably.

When asked more broadly which type of tax system they believe was fairer and most effective, voters were divided. While 28% favored a national sales tax (the single most selected option) others expressed preference for a hybrid system combining income and sales taxes (18%), a flat income tax (17%) or the current system (14%). Notably, 24% said they were unsure, underscoring both the complexity of the issue and a general lack of existing models.

Awareness of the FAIRtax Act remains relatively low with only one in four voters having heard of the proposal prior to the survey, with knowledge highest among middle-aged and Black voters. However, once respondents were presented with the basic explanation of the plan, support levels rose significantly- indicating that the concept may have substantial room to grow with increased public education.

Perhaps the most resonant element of the FAIRtax framework is its simplicity. The idea of keeping your paycheck without federal withholding stood out across all

demographics with nearly 60% of voters identifying it as the most appealing feature. In contrast, more abstract components - like dismantling the IRS or receiving a monthly prebate - received more mixed reactions. For many the emotional and financial appeal of retaining their full earnings without federal withholding outweighed concerns about structure itself.

This is not yet a populist uprising against the income tax, but it may represent the early stages of a profound shift in public opinion. Across age, education, race and political

affiliation, Americans are showing signs of fatigue with the complexity and perceived unfairness of the current income tax system. The fact that the majority are willing to support a national sales tax to replace the current system and half are willing to see the IRS abolished should be a sign that change is on the horizon, while policy makers can take note that the public opinion for both ideas is significant.

For more information go to FAIRtax.org



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Join us at the Ocala Downtown Market (ODM) to purchase a diverse array of products from farmers, artisans, craftspeople, food trucks! A true destination location, ODM is set just blocks off the Ocala Downtown square, in a beautiful open-air Market Pavilion. Besides permanent roof cover the facility it also has large overhead fans, restrooms, a nearby ATM, and water fountains. The Market Pavilion is also available for rental.



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Love is just a leash away!!

The HSMC is here for you and the animals who depend on us. We wanted to share that we will continue to be here to help unwanted pets during this pandemic while following all Marion County and Florida state guidelines.

As this situation is constantly changing, we ask that you continue to visit our Shelter using the safety guidelines in place.

How can you help?

Pet Food Bank: Help stock our Pet Food Bank with pet food and supplies for people who cannot afford them due to job loss or other reasons. You can also bring donations to our Shelter daily from 10-6. Masks required please! If you need help keeping your pet with you during this time, our Happy Paws food program is here for you.

Volunteer: A small number of volunteers have returned to help in various departments. We are accepting volunteer applications but do not yet know when we will schedule orientations for new volunteers. Please contact us for more information about volunteering. We are currently working on a digital orientation.

Opt to adopt: According to the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, there is no evidence that companion animals such as cats and dogs can spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

Donate: We know there is a lot of uncertainty right now but homeless and unwanted animals still need us. Donate to help the Humane Society of Marion County so we continue our lifesaving work and make them feel safe and loved.



Bilbie

Bilbie is a 14 weeks old male brought to the HSMC with her brother Wombat! We believe they could be Xoloitzcuintli, or Xolo, which is Mexican hairless dog breed.



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



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

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



Humane Society of Marion County
PO Box 1542 Ocala, FL 34478
Mail check or complete the credit/debit card payment form.



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Visa ☐ M/C ☐ Discover Card # _____ Exp date: _____ Code: _____

Donations to the Humane Society are tax-deductible. Check with your accountant for more information. No goods or services have been provided to the donor as a result of this gift.

FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL UTHMEIER



Attorney General James Uthmeier Fights for Florida Crypto Investors, Launches Investigation into Robinhood

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier is launching an investigation into Robinhood Crypto, LLC, and issuing a subpoena to uncover internal documents. Robinhood Crypto allegedly is breaking Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Practices Act by falsely promoting its crypto platform as the least expensive way to purchase crypto—when there is evidence to suggest that is not true.

“Crypto is a vital component of Florida's financial future, and President Trump's efforts to advance the crypto market will make America stronger and wealthier. When consumers buy and sell crypto assets, they deserve transparency in their transactions,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “Robinhood has long claimed to be the best bargain, but we believe those representations were deceptive.”

Robinhood is a cryptocurrency and stock trading platform. Instead of charging a commission, Robinhood generates revenue by routing customers' trades to third-party firms. These firms pay Robinhood for the opportunity to take the opposite side of its customers' trades, also known as payment for order flow or PFOF.

Robinhood induces customers to its platform by claiming to offer the “lowest cost on average” to trade cryptocurrency and promising to deliver customers “the most crypto for your money.” However, there is evidence that trading on Robinhood is actually more expensive than trading on competing platforms due to its PFOF structure versus competitors offering all-in trading costs. This is due to the fact that third parties that pay Robinhood for order flow might have to charge less favorable prices to the Robinhood customers they trade with to be profitable.

To determine if these business practices are taking advantage of Florida investors, Attorney General Uthmeier issued a subpoena to Robinhood seeking copies of the following:

- Organizational chart or documents that identify the functional and reporting structure of the company;
- Documents sufficient to show the name and titles of all former and current employees whose job responsibilities include marketing the trading platform;
- Documents sufficient to show the name and titles of all former and current employees whose job responsibilities include determining commissions, fees, transaction rebates, or PFOF structure;
- Documents sufficient to show the advertisements, including ads on social media and search engines, advertising the platform's cryptocurrency trading;
- All documents relating to

Robinhood's claim that users “trade crypto at the lowest cost on average;”

• All documents relating to the claim that users “get the most crypto for your money with Robinhood Crypto;”

• Documents sufficient to show all disclosures made to users relating to the user fees, commissions, spread markups, transaction rebates; or PFOF practices in cryptocurrency trades;

• Documents sufficient to show all training materials provided to personnel relating to how to discuss cryptocurrency trading costs and/or fees with users;

• Documents sufficient to show how the platform determines pricing for transaction rebates or PFOF practices with market makers;

• Documents sufficient to show the entities with whom Robinhood entered into PFOF or transaction rebate agreements;

• All documents relating to any of Robinhood's competitors' costs to trade cryptocurrency, including but not limited to comparative pricing analyses of other cryptocurrency exchanges;

• Documents sufficient to show policies on PFOF, transaction rebates, and best execution for cryptocurrency trades;

• Documents relating to the sale or access to users' cryptocurrency trading data;

• Communications sent to or received from users in Florida relating to the cost and/or fees of buying and selling cryptocurrency on Robinhood;

• Documents sufficient to show the number of users in Florida that used the platform in 2024; and

For all trades by users in Florida trading on the platform in 2024.

Robinhood Crypto is required to respond to the subpoena by July 31, 2025.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Adds Victim Tampering Count to Man Previously Charged with Trafficking of a Minor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution has added a count of victim tampering against a defendant already charged with human trafficking of a minor. While in pretrial detention at Wakulla County Jail, authorities intercepted three letters sent by Sky Skidmore to the victim, the victim's mother, and Skidmore's mother. These letters were intended to intimidate the victim.

“This defendant, who is currently in pretrial detention for committing heinous acts of human trafficking against a minor, chose to escalate his terrible situation by sending letters to intimidate and deter the victim from testifying at trial,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “Our Statewide Prosecutors have added this additional charge for this human trafficker and will continue to work diligently to hold him accountable for his atrocious crimes.”

Last year, the Office of Statewide Prosecution charged Skidmore with human trafficking, lewd and lascivious battery, encouraging the sexual performance of a minor, and unlawful use of a two-way communications device. Skidmore remains in pretrial detention.

Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Guillermo Vallejo is handling the case.

Advertisement for WOCA 96.3 FM 1370 AM. The central graphic is a blue circle with a microphone in the background. Inside the circle, the text reads: "ON AIR" (on a red sign), "THE SOURCE" (in large white letters), "News-Talk-Music-Sports", "96.3 FM", "1370 AM", and "WOCA". Surrounding the circle are various phrases: "Your 'SOURCE' for News, Talk, Music, Sports, Prizes, & More!", "TIME-IN", and "Home of the Hon...".

FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Positive Achievements in 2025 School Grades

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.— Governor DeSantis announced school grades for the 2024-25 academic

year and highlighted statewide progress monitoring testing. Continuing the trend from 2023-24, improvements were seen in K-12 school performance grades across all school types, including 71% of all graded schools (2,461 schools) earning either an “A” or “B” grade, compared to 64% (2,215) of schools last year. Florida charter schools are also thriving with 77% earning “A” or “B” grades.

For information about positive results from Florida's progress monitoring testing, refer to [this](#) press release.

“Florida's use of statewide progress monitoring is yet another example of how Florida leads on education,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Providing more opportunities for parents and teachers to intervene in a child's performance in school leads to better outcomes and a higher quality education.”

“This year's school grades demonstrate that Florida's focus on the future of education has paid off,” said **Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr.** “Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida has implemented innovative strategies like progress monitoring and provided students with the choices they need to succeed. The 2025 school grades are a reflection of the nation-leading education reforms that Florida has implemented.”

“Florida has laid the blueprint for educational success in America,” said **Incoming Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas**. “These school grades are another example of how our

approach is working.”

Overview of 2025 School Grades

· 71% of graded all schools (2,461 schools) earned an “A” or “B” in 2025 compared to 64% (2,215 schools) in 2024.

· 44% of all schools earned an “A” compared to 38% in 2024.

· 1,908 schools (56%) increased their grade or maintained an “A” in 2025.

· The number of schools earning a “D” or “F” decreased from 117 schools in 2024 to only 71 schools in 2025—a reduction of 46 schools.

In 2025, the number of elementary schools earning an “A” increased by 4 percentage points, compared to 2024. The number of middle schools receiving an “A” increased by 9 percentage points, and the number of high schools earning an “A” increased by 10 percentage points.

For 2024-25, 28 school districts received an “A,” 31 districts received a “B,” 8 districts received a “C,” and no districts received a “D” or “F”

Florida's charter schools also continue to thrive. 77 percent (480) of graded charter schools earned an “A” or “B,” and 68% (412 schools) either increasing their grade or maintaining an “A.”

Governor Ron DeSantis Unveils Thomas Jefferson Statue in Jefferson County as Part of Florida's America250 Celebration

MONTICELLO, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis announced the official launch of Florida's America250FL campaign to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. As part of the celebration, the Governor unveiled a new statue of Thomas Jefferson in Jefferson County—honoring the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and one of America's most influential founding fathers.

“While others are tearing statues of our founding fathers down, Florida is putting them up,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**.

“Thomas Jefferson was a critical figure in the formation of our country, especially in drafting the Declaration of Independence. In Florida, we celebrate the Founding Fathers.”

The event marked the second in a series of statue unveilings planned across Florida counties named for America's founders. Statues will also be installed in Washington, Franklin, Hamilton, Madison, and Monroe Counties over the next year. Many other events and celebrations are planned and will ramp up across Florida all year in celebration of next year's semiquincentennial.

Governor DeSantis underscored Thomas Jefferson's legacy as the “Father of the Declaration of Independence,” whose words provided moral clarity and philosophical weight to America's pursuit of liberty. The Governor also emphasized Jefferson's commitment to religious freedom, civic virtue, and education—principles that continue to shape Florida's approach to civic instruction.

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida has made historic investments in civic education to ensure students understand and appreciate the nation's founding principles.

In 2021, the Governor signed legislation establishing the Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative, a \$129 million program that has supported the expansion of civics curriculum at all grade levels and created the Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement for Florida teachers. To date, more than 21,000 teachers have participated in the program, with over 3,700 more on the waitlist. The state has awarded over \$59 million in teacher stipends to recognize their commitment to fostering civic literacy.

Earlier this week, Governor DeSantis signed Florida's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, which includes an additional \$7.4 million to further expand civic literacy and debate programs across the state.

The Governor also announced the launch of [America250FL.com](#), Florida's official hub for the yearlong commemoration. The site offers Floridians opportunities to:

- Learn about Florida's role in American history;
- Plan visits to historic sites across the state; and
- Share their own family's contributions to Florida's and America's history.

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Waiting is a Waste of Time

By TomL

Something I have a problem with is waiting. Do you realize how much of your life is wasted because of waiting. I can tolerate a small amount of time but over twenty minutes and I am getting frustrated. In a doctors office where some doctors like to over book, I don't go there. My Doctor gets me in and out. It's called time management. I think if someone is making me wait they think their time is more important than mine. It is not! I hated it when the corporation I worked for wanted me to learn (Time Management) because the way they operate is they wanted to cut people off when their time was up. Some people take a few minutes longer. Manage the people waiting so they don't feel they're wasting their time.

Trump is always moving ahead/ forward/ advancing, it is the way he operates. He does not like to wait. He does not waller in a problem, he is a problem solver. He expects his team to be the same way. Remember to much waiting in your life is a waste of your journey in life.

Tomato Tariffs

Continued from page 3

DiMare, President of DiMare Fresh. "Her leadership and persistence were critical in bringing an end to a flawed agreement that, for years, disadvantaged American tomato producers. We sincerely appreciate her steadfast commitment to fairness, accountability, and the defense of American agriculture."

"Florida's farmers have faced unfair trade pressures for far too long, and today's

decision is a meaningful step toward restoring fairness in the market," said Jeb S. Smith, President of Florida Farm Bureau Federation. "We commend the U.S. Department of Commerce for recognizing the harm caused by dumped Mexican tomato imports and thank Congresswoman Kat Cammack for her unwavering support of Florida agriculture. This action reinforces that American farmers deserve a level playing field and that our nation is serious about safeguarding its domestic food supply."

Get Road-trip Ready

When school years come to a close, many families hit the road for vacations, camps, and college visits. This makes summer an excellent time for drivers to do a routine check to make sure their vehicle is safe—checking the tire pressure, lights, and fluid levels; confirming that there are safety supplies in the trunk; and making that scheduled visit to a dealer or mechanic to change the oil or replace the wiper blades.

One important step drivers often forget is checking for vehicle safety recalls. Unlike other vehicle maintenance, repairing a safety recall is completely free at any authorized dealer.

The Problem

A recent public opinion survey commissioned by Stellantis, maker of Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, and Ram, found that 43% of American drivers don't know how to check if a vehicle has an open safety recall.

An Answer

Drivers can check for recalls by visiting [CheckToProtect.org](https://www.checktoprotect.org) and entering a license plate number or Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into the search tool. Within

seconds, the site will indicate the vehicle's recall status. If a vehicle does have an open safety recall, drivers can use the site to find their closest dealership to schedule a free recall repair appointment.

The same public opinion survey also found that around 22% of drivers believe that a dealership would request personal information that they don't have or don't want to provide.

More Good News

When customers bring a vehicle in for a recall repair, they only need to provide enough personal information for the dealer to contact them when the repair is complete. Recall repairs can take as little as one hour, and customers can ask dealers about rideshare vouchers, loaner cars, and other transportation services they may offer.

Drivers of older, used vehicles or those who have moved recently may not receive recall notifications from the dealership. For this reason, many drivers could be unaware of open safety recalls on their vehicle. In 2024, [CARFAX](https://www.carfax.com) estimated that more than

57.7 million vehicles in the United States had an open safety recall—roughly one in five vehicles on the road.

Be Safe, Not Surprised

Drivers may also assume that if their vehicle drives normally that it's safe. The public opinion survey commissioned by Stellantis shows that around 40% of American drivers believe that a recall is fine as long as it doesn't affect the performance of a vehicle. However, the reality is that some recalls don't impact the way a vehicle drives. Recalls can affect a variety of components including electrical systems, fluid lines, airbags, and batteries, so certain recalls may not be noticeable to drivers until defective parts fail or malfunction. Unrepaired vehicle recalls can pose significant risks to the safety of drivers and passengers.

Don't let vehicle trouble spoil fun travel plans. Checking for and repairing recalls ahead of road trips is the route to peace of mind on the roads this summer.

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