



Breakfast with the Mayor. More photos on page 2.



Dan Kapilian presenting door prize at LL luncheon. More pages 8&9

Unsolved Murder

LADY LAKE - On the two-year-anniversary of the Town's only unsolved homicide, the Lady Lake Police Department is asking the public for help in solving this tragic crime.

20-year-old Bryson "Swift" Leverette was one of two victims shot at 104 Caroline Ave. on June 30, 2023. Lady Lake Police responded within minutes and performed life-saving measures, however Leverette was pronounced dead at the scene. The second victim survived their injuries.

The initial investigation revealed that



NEW FEATURE
TOWN NEWS
See page 2

both victims were leaving the home in the Skyline Hills area of Lady Lake at around 12:44 a.m. when they were attacked by a group of suspects armed with several different firearms. The suspects fled the scene in unknown vehicles.

Since his death, Leverette's girlfriend gave birth to their son. Leverette's mother, family and friends continue to grieve their loss and eagerly await news of an arrest.

"No mother should ever go through the pain of having to bury their child, especially a child who was a victim of a senseless and violent crime," said Det. Ronnie Williams, the lead investigator on the case. "The Lady Lake Police Department will continue to work diligently to see that those responsible for Bryson's death are brought to justice."

Lady Lake detectives are actively working leads in this case and are requesting the public's assistance. Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Ronnie Williams at (352) 751-1542 or rwilliams@ladylake.org, or call **CRIMELINE** at 1-800-423-TIPS (8477).

Operation Slow Down

Saving Lives Through Enforcement and Education: Florida Department of Transportation and Partners Launch 8th-Annual Operation Southern Slow Down

Creating lasting changes in driver behavior through enhanced enforcement and education

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is proud to announce the launch of Florida's annual Operation Southern Slow Down campaign, which begins July 14. Through this campaign, FDOT aims to reduce the risk of speed-related crashes by leveraging the use of enhanced enforcement of speed limits and public safety messaging about the dangers of speeding. In partnership with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) and its division of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), FDOT's Operation Southern Slow Down efforts are part of a broader initiative involving its counterpart transportation and law enforcement organizations in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

"Florida's transportation system is meticulously engineered to maximize safety – it's woven into every design plan, every education campaign, and every traffic safety law enforced by our law enforcement partners. Operation Southern Slow Down is a strong example of how each of these facets works together to create safer roadways," said **Florida Department of**

Transportation Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. "We encourage communities to join our efforts in creating a safer transportation future by recognizing the risks of unsafe driving behaviors, like speeding.

"Operation Southern Slow Down is a united effort to reduce dangerous driving behaviors that contribute to serious crashes on our roadways," said **Florida Highway Patrol Colonel Gary Howze II.** "Through increased enforcement and proactive education, FHP and our partners are working across state lines to save lives and move closer to our shared vision of zero traffic deaths."

Unsafe driving behaviors, such as speeding and aggression, continue to serve as the primary factor in all traffic crashes and their resulting fatalities and serious injuries across Florida. According to FLHSMV data, these behaviors in particular contributed to 437 fatalities (13 percent) of all traffic fatalities in Florida in 2023.

Through campaigns like Operation Southern Slow Down, Florida takes a dual approach of targeting driver behavior through heightened enforcement efforts and public safety messaging. Driven to reach Florida's goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries to zero, the enforcement and education partnership between FDOT and its law enforcement

Continued page 2

Town News Lake County Events

Lady Lake's Water System

Town of Lady Lake's water system passes state inspection

LADY LAKE — The Town of Lady Lake's Water Utility recently underwent a comprehensive sanitary survey inspection by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The review, conducted by three inspectors on June 6, included visits to all three of the Town's water treatment plants.

The inspection evaluated all major aspects of the Town's water system, including water sampling plans, maintenance records, emergency preparedness, and cross connection control. Lady Lake's water utility staff provided documentation demonstrating that the Town is maintaining and operating its water system in accordance with state requirements and public health standards.

The inspection reviewed the Town's:

Routine bacteriological and lead/copper sampling

Water quality monitoring

Equipment maintenance and calibration

System mapping and emergency response

Cross connection control and backflow prevention

"The Town of Lady Lake has a very dedicated utility team that continually serves 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year to protect the health and welfare of our community," said Butch Goodman, Utilities Supervisor. "Despite our ongoing projects, emergency work, and hurricanes, our staff remains focused and dedicated on keeping the water plants and water distribution system in compliance with all the regulatory requirements and everyday customer concerns."

The Town of Lady Lake remains committed to delivering safe, reliable drinking water and will continue to follow best practices in water system operation and maintenance.



Breakfast with the Major

Operation Slow Down

Continued from page 1

counterparts plays a critical role in creating lasting changes in driver behavior and will contribute to the vision of a safer, fatality-free future across Florida.

"We all want to arrive at our destinations safely during this busy summer travel season, and this joint effort will serve as a strong reminder to obey traffic safety laws," said **Kenneth Boswell, Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**. "We support our law enforcement officers in Alabama and the Southeast as they work hard to prevent injuries and deaths from automobile crashes."

"Speeding threatens the lives of everyone on the road and that is why Georgia and our neighbors are sending the message that illegal and dangerous driving behaviors will not be tolerated," said **Allen Poole, Director**



of the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. "The goal of 'Operation Southern Slow Down' is to not write tickets but for motorists to choose to put safety first by driving at slower and safer speeds."

"We look forward to working alongside our law enforcement counterparts across the Southeast to address the unnecessary choice to speed excessively," said **Robert G. Woods IV, Director of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety**. "This reckless decision behind the wheel is one of the top contributing factors for collisions in South Carolina. It's unnecessary, dangerous, and not worth the risk. Through a collective, united effort such as this, we are able to focus our resources with a strong goal of driving down the number of speed-

related collisions and fatalities."

"You're almost three times more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious-injury crash when you're speeding," said **Buddy Lewis, Director of the Tennessee Office of Highway Safety**. "Speeding lowers your reaction time, increases the risk of losing control of your vehicle, and reduces the effectiveness of occupant protection equipment. Let's work together to protect our roadways this summer. All we ask is for voluntary compliance."

To encourage responsible behaviors on Florida's roadways, here are some safety reminders:

- Never drive under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or other impairing substances.
- Buckle up for every trip and ensure all

passengers wear safety belts.

• Remain alert and always drive with caution – put away all distractions, like cell phones, every time you get behind the wheel.

• Practice patience and maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.

• Plan your route in advance on FL511.com and allow extra time for traffic during peak travel times.

• Allow more stopping time if driving a larger vehicle, especially on wet pavement.

• Remember to reduce speed in construction zones to enhance road safety.

• If you witness aggressive driving, contact local law enforcement by dialing *FHP(*347) or 911.

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? These are people I trust!

If you are curious about how to invest your money
Call Nick 352-629-2165
email: nick.navetta@edwardjones.com

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

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."*
B a c k g r o u n d : 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.

Lake County Detention Center Public Booking Log



See the frequently updated public booking log of those recently charged in Lake County. Go to:

<http://tomlpublishing.com/category/villages-news/lady-lake-police-dept/>

Or go to

[Tomlpublishing.com](http://tomlpublishing.com) and click on **Lake County Sheriff** on right side under **"Contributing Editors"**.

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



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

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

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FAIRTAX



Department of Commerce Ends Suspension Agreement, Reinstating

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

Tomato Tariffs

Washington, D.C. — 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.

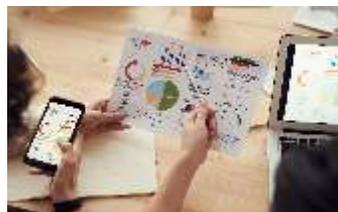
At a time of continued economic uncertainty and public dissatisfaction with federal institutions, 58% of voters say they would support a national consumption tax that allowed workers to retain their paychecks without federal withholding. This proposal, central to the FAIRtax Plan (HR25), envisions eliminating income, payroll, corporate, capital gains and estate

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Publisher Notes

Continued from page 4

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 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.

Waiting is a Waste of Your Time

cBy 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.

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

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LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

Aug 01
Exploration Hike
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Ferndale Preserve in Clermont 8/19/510/312/5
Join staff and explore the habitats and species of Ferndale Preserve. Hike intensity: Vigorous. Reservations required.

Aug 01
First Friday
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Downtown Eustis in Eustis
Join us for our Eustis First Friday Street Party from 6 - 9 p.m.! Our family-friendly monthly street parties host a wide variety of food, vendors and...

Aug 02
Wetland Excursion - Lake Norris
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lake Norris Conservation Area in Eustis
Join us for a fast paced guided hike to explore diverse ecosystems. Hike Intensity: Vigorous. Reservations Required.

Aug 03
Exploration Hike
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM P.E.A.R. Park (Gateway) in Leesburg 8/39/710/511/2 Plus More
Join staff on an early evening walk while exploring nature at P.E.A.R. Park. Hike Intensity: Light. Reservations required.

Aug 06
Water Wednesday
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hickory Point in Tavares
Join us as we discuss the importance of shoreline conservation, the threats these

areas face, and what you can do to help protect them. Sustainable acti...

Aug 08
Discover Leesburg
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg 8/89/1210/1011/14 Plus More
Join us every 2nd Friday evening of the month on Towne Square in Downtown Leesburg for an evening of entertainment, shopping, and community spirit. We...

Aug 09
Arthropods
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail and Trailhead in Sorrento
It's a bugs world, let's delve into it! Join park staff and search for some amazing insects, spiders, and other invertebrates. August is the month for a...

Aug 09
Second Saturday Sounds
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Ferran Park in Eustis 8/99/13
Second Saturday Sounds in Ferran Park is a new free concert series kicking-off in Eustis this summer. Join us each second Saturday from July - September...

Aug 14
Wetland Mammals - Leesburg Public Library
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Leesburg Public Library in Leesburg
Our Vital Wetlands Series: Exploring Wetland Ecosystems - presented by the Lake County Water Authority. Overview of mammal species inhabiting Florida's...

Aug 16
Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail & Trailhead in Sorrento 8/1611/15
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...

Aug 16
The World of Seeds
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ellis Acres Reserve in Paisley
Seed set, seed ripening, seed germination, seed eaters, and seed dormancy are all aspects of propagating plants. Come learn a bit about seeds while enjo...

Aug 22
Stories of Water - Wolf Branch Sink Preserve
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wolf Branch Sink in Mount Dora
Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Wolf Branch Sink. Hiking Intensity: Vigorous (due to hills) Reservations required.

Aug 22
Stories of Water - Flat Island Preserve
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Flat Island Preserve in Leesburg
Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Flat Island Preserve. Hiking Intensity: Light. Reservations Required.

Aug 23
Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey
7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Pine Meadows

Conservation Area in Eustis 8/2312/20
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...

Aug 23
REAL Comedy Mount Dora Summer Nights
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Mount Dora Music Hall at the Community Building in Mount Dora
Join us for the REAL Comedy Series featuring Comedians representing Real Radio 104.1's programs beginning on Saturday, June 14 at the Mount Dora Music H...

Aug 23
REAL Comedy Mount Dora Summer Nights
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Mount Dora Music Hall at the Community Building in Mount Dora
Get ready to laugh with REAL radio 104.1's Ryan Holmes in Show #2 on 7/12 and Sabrina Ambra in Show #3 on 8/23 for REAL Comedy Summer Nights series, fea...

Aug 28
All Request Piano Singalong by Scotty Kilwein
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mission Resort + Club in Howey-in-the-Hills
Join us for an All Request Piano Singalong with Scotty Kilwein at Grove House on Thursday, August 28 from 6-9 PM! Ages 18+. Enjoy great food, drinks, an...



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Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon

Lady networking luncheon was a great success. Pictures with two people standing are door prize pictures and people sitting are business people attending the luncheon. The attendee's sit at different tables so they can learn more about each other's businesses.



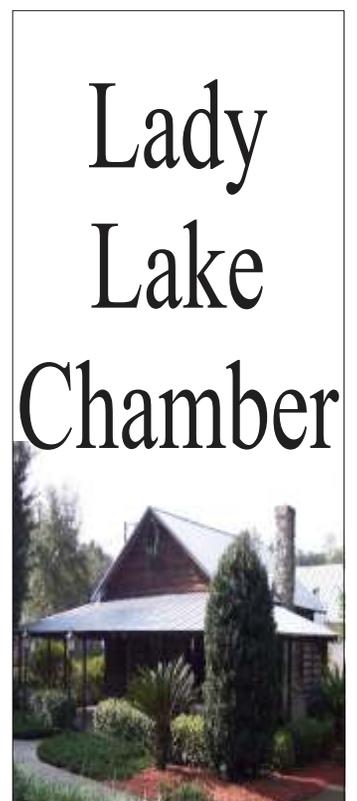
Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?

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

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



Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



Adult AUGUST Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 ESL @10-11:30am	5	6	7	8 BestBuy iPhone/iPad @ 9:30am
11 ESL @10-11:30am	12 Book Discussion @ 2-4pm	13 SHINE 2-4pm	14 Bingo! @2-3:30pm sign up required	15 Board Games Meetup! @2-4pm
18 ESL @10-11:30am	19	20 Authors Round Table @ 2-4pm	21	22 BestBuy iMac @ 9:30am
25 ESL @10-11:30am Page Turners BOOK CLUB @5:30-6:30 pm	26 	27 SHINE 2-4pm	28	29

Youth AUGUST Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Join Us In Our Monthly Scavenger Hunt! Follow the clues and win a cool prize! 			1 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
4 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	5 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	6 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	7 	8 Lego Masters @ 3:30-4:30pm
11 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	12 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	13 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	14	15 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
18 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	19 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	20 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	21	22 Lego Masters @ 3:30pm
25 Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	26 Tiny Tots @ 10:30am Family Crafting @ 3:30pm	27 Storytime 10:30am Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	28 	29 Baby Storytime @10:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm

New Alzheimer's Pill

New Alzheimer's Pill Offers Families More Time

(NewsUSA) - A once-a-day pill called blarcamesine may slow memory loss and preserve independence—without the scary side effects or burdens of current treatments.

A Small Pill With Big Potential

If you love someone with Alzheimer's, you know how quietly devastating the disease can be. One day it's a forgotten name. A year later, it's forgotten faces, forgotten routines. For many, even the latest treatments feel out of reach: risky, invasive, or simply too late.

But now, a new study offers something rare in Alzheimer's, a reason for hope. A once-daily pill called blarcamesine (pronounced blar-CAM-uh-seen) may actually slow the disease's grip. And it does so safely, without the brain swelling and bleeding linked to some newer drugs.

The data, presented this spring at an international Alzheimer's conference, showed that people who started taking blarcamesine early and stayed on it continuously had better memory, clearer thinking, and greater ability to handle everyday tasks—even after nearly four years.

For families trying to hang on to time and dignity, that's no small thing.

As Dr. Timo Grimmer, a lead scientist on the study, put it: "Diagnosing and treating people earlier and consistently may lead to greater clinical benefit."

Safer, Simpler, and Easier to Take

Blarcamesine isn't an infusion. There's no monthly IV. No MRI scans. No trips to specialty hospitals. Just one pill a day.

That simplicity matters. Many Alzheimer's treatments today require

hospital visits, specialized imaging, and high-risk monitoring for side effects. These hurdles often make access harder for families without nearby clinics or flexible jobs.

"Oral medications like blarcamesine are more convenient for many patients as they can take medication at home without requiring regular clinic visits or infusion appointments," says Amy Reichelt, Ph.D., a neuroscientist and drug development expert. "Monoclonal antibodies require regular infusion center visits (typically every 2–4 weeks), which creates significant logistical burdens for patients and caregivers."

Still, there are trade-offs. "Adherence challenges exist with oral Alzheimer's medications as patients can forget to take their medications," Reichelt adds. "However, the convenience of home administration is valuable for Alzheimer's patients who may struggle with transportation and clinic visits as their condition progresses."

What the Numbers Mean for You

Let's put the science in plain terms.

In the study, people who began taking blarcamesine right away had stronger thinking skills than those who started a year later. Their memory declined more slowly, and they were better able to handle basic tasks like dressing or preparing food.

And while the numbers may sound small—three or four points better on a memory scale—experts say that's enough to change daily life. It might mean still knowing your grandchildren's names. Still walking safely. Still living independently.

The safety data is especially striking. "A

recent Phase 2b/3 clinical study with blarcamesine showed that there was no evidence of neurological tissue damage such as hemorrhage or Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA), which have been observed with lecanemab and donanemab," Reichelt explains. Those antibody drugs require regular MRI scans to monitor ARIA, a side effect that can force treatment to stop.

"The risk of ARIA requires frequent patient monitoring by MRI and can lead to treatment discontinuation," she says. "However, the frequent monitoring with MRI might catch increasing disease progression or other pathologies."

Cost Matters—To Families and Systems

While safety and simplicity are headline features, the economics of a pill like blarcamesine could be just as powerful.

"Key economic factors include reduced monitoring costs, as frequent MRI scans are costly," Reichelt notes. "And some individuals are incompatible with MRIs due to metal implants or claustrophobia."

IV infusions come with additional costs—nursing time, facility fees, medication prep, and more. "Moreover, caregiver time, transportation, and lost productivity for caregivers dealing with regular infusion appointments can be substantial, particularly as patients become less mobile," Reichelt adds.

"Oral medications typically have broader insurance coverage and accessibility, especially in rural or underserved areas where access to infusion centers may be limited," she says. "The potential cost savings of an oral medication without MRI monitoring is likely significant for both insurance payers, and patient experience and treatment adherence may also be improved."

What Comes Next

Blarcamesine is still under review by

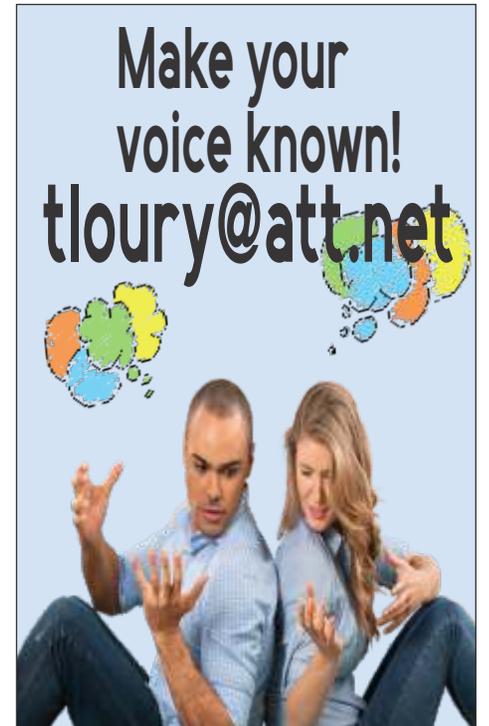
health authorities in Europe. It's not yet approved for general use in the U.S. But the signs are encouraging, and the pressure is growing.

There are nearly 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer's. Many current treatments are too complex, too risky, or simply too late. Families deserve better options. Safer options. Smarter options.

That's what makes blarcamesine so compelling. It's not just another high-tech moonshot. It's a practical, patient-friendly approach that could help more people, sooner.

Article Link

<https://about.newsusa.com/new-alzheimers-pill-offers-families-more-time>



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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Cammack Applauds \$675.9 Million in Disaster Relief for Florida Farmers

Washington, DC — Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03)

released the following statement following U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins' announcement of \$675.9 million in federal disaster assistance for Florida farmers impacted by Hurricanes Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton:

"Florida's agriculture industry isn't just the backbone of our state's economy—it's a cornerstone of our national food security. From citrus growers and cattle ranchers to timber operations and family farms, the devastation from back-to-back storms has been overwhelming. This \$675.9 million investment will go a long way in helping our producers rebuild infrastructure, recover lost income, and stay in business," said Congresswoman Cammack. "I want to thank President Trump, Secretary Rollins, and our state partner, Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, for recognizing the urgent needs on the ground and delivering the targeted, meaningful relief our ag community needs and deserves."

Background:

As the lone voice for Florida Agriculture at the federal level, Congresswoman Cammack has championed policies and relief for Florida's agricultural community—from securing disaster assistance and pushing back against unfair trade practices to advancing pro-farmer

policies through her work on the House Agriculture and Energy and Commerce Committees.

The disaster funding, made possible through the American Relief Act of 2025, is part of a broader \$30 billion USDA initiative to assist producers across 14 states recovering from extreme weather events. Florida's share of the block grant will be used to cover losses in infrastructure, citrus, timber, and direct-to-market sales not addressed by other USDA programs.

Cammack, 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 South Texas.

"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:

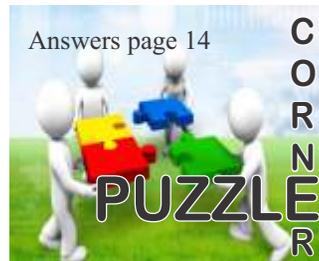
"Florida's Third District is home to hardworking families, first responders, small businesses, and rural communities—and this bill reflects their priorities.

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."



Across

1. Like a juicy turkey
6. Measure, old-style
10. Cole's follower
14. "Norwegian Wood" instrument
15. Jump at the Ice Capades
16. Wandering Marco
17. PR man's concern
18. Hot Wheels and Matchbox
19. Wander
20. '83 University of Houston basketball team
23. One way to move an auto
24. Williams of "Happy Days"
25. 1930s St. Louis Cardinals
32. Klondike River region
33. Lacoste of tennis
34. Word after public or private
37. TV talking horse
38. Son of Amram and Jochebed
40. Ditch a dele

41. Toothed tool
42. Montreal ballplayer
43. Western horse
44. NFL Pittsburgh defense in the 1970s
47. One who weeps, in a saying
50. Bauxite or azurite
51. 1906 Chicago White Sox
58. Burn treatment
59. It's formed from silica
60. Become dangerous for driving
62. No longer bursting at the seams?
63. Old record player
64. Dependent, usually
65. Sphere of interest
66. Director Preminger
67. Toy truck maker

- Down
1. Three letters starting a Beatles song title
 2. Like a Dali watch
 3. Home of the Jazz
 4. Biblical gift bearers
 5. TV Mountie
 6. Tropical birds
 7. School test
 8. School period
 9. Movie lioness
 10. Bounded
 11. Weaving machines
 12. Memorable name in Texas

13. Eve, e.g.
21. Baseball legend Gehrig
22. A Fonda
25. Exercise facilities
26. Subtly pervasive quality
27. Distort, as survey results
28. Coal box
29. He played Robin in 1938
30. Tracker maker
31. Miller or Landers
34. Volcano near Taormina
35. Bigfoot relative
36. Kind of collar
38. Bladed tool
39. Bonobo or siamang
40. Take a chair
42. Raison d' _____
43. Prognosticate
44. Tejano singer
45. "Gangsta's Paradise" rapper
46. It may hold ashes
47. _____ apso (dog breed)
48. Former Houston player
49. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" writer
52. London dining district
53. Roasting rod
54. Float over air or water
55. Canyon comeback
56. Horse's guide
57. Bad-tempered silence
61. Handheld device (Abbr.)

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



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 Issues Subpoenas in Investigation into RAD Diversified REIT, Brandon “Dutch” Mendenhall, and Amy Vaughn

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier has issued subpoenas to RAD Diversified REIT, Inc., its subsidiaries, and its owners, Brandon “Dutch” Mendenhall and Amy Vaughn, arising out of allegations that RAD Diversified REIT, Mendenhall and Vaughn have violated Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act or other laws. Mendenhall and Vaughn are internet personalities who advertise seminars that encourage Floridians to invest in real estate through the RAD Diversified REIT and its subsidiaries.

“Our office has received complaints that a popular internet duo selling real estate investment services through their fund is pocketing cash instead of buying properties as advertised,” said **Attorney General**

James Uthmeier. “This appears to be a Ponzi scheme, and with several individuals claiming they've been exploited, we are investigating to ensure Floridians are not being deceived by greedy fraudsters.”

Mendenhall and Vaughn, owners of RAD Diversified REIT, Inc. and its subsidiaries, post videos online and on social media to promote their fund, which is supposed to pool investor funds and invest in real estate. Additionally, Mendenhall and Vaughn host periodic in-person seminars that advertise RAD Diversified REIT, Inc. as a way for Floridians to invest in real estate if they do not have enough funds to buy property outright. However, many investors have complained that they cannot collect returns or get their money back due to roadblocks by Mendenhall and Vaughn. The investigation and subpoenas seek to gather information about these complaints and whether the company owns real estate equivalent in value to the amount invested by RAD Diversified REIT customers.

Attorney General Uthmeier issued subpoenas to collect the following:

- Communications between the company and certain customers/investors;
- Documents provided to or shared with customers/investors;
- Customer/investor complaints received by the company;
- Copies of all operational and procedural manuals or training manuals used by the company;
- Exemplar copies of each offering statement, prospectus or other document setting forth the opportunity to invest with the company offered to potential customers/investors;
- Copies of marketing materials;
- Banking and financial documents;
- Other miscellaneous documents detailing the stockholders of RAD Diversified REIT and its holdings.

The company and its owners are required to make documents available by July 18, 2025 at 9am.

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Florida Ranks #1 for Religious Liberty in the U.S.

SARASOTA, Fla. — Today, Governor DeSantis announced Florida has earned the #1 spot on the First Liberty

Institute's Religious Liberty in the States Index. The "Religious Liberty in the States Index" is a comprehensive, peer-reviewed comparison of how all 50 states protect religious liberty through law. The index offers the most comprehensive legal analysis of religious liberty protections across all 50 states, evaluating factors such as religious exemptions, protections for religious organizations and schools, and the freedom of individuals to live out their faith in both public and private life.

"Florida holds several #1 rankings, leading the nation in education, economy, and tourism—and now, Florida is #1 in religious liberty," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We're grateful for this recognition from the First Liberty Institute, which has just named Florida the #1 state in the nation for protecting religious liberty. Religious liberty is critical to the foundation and function of America, and I am proud that Florida excels in protecting this right."

Florida has championed policies and legislation that have protected religious freedom for Floridians.

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.

For more information about Florida's America250 celebration, visit America250FL.com.

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.

RNC News

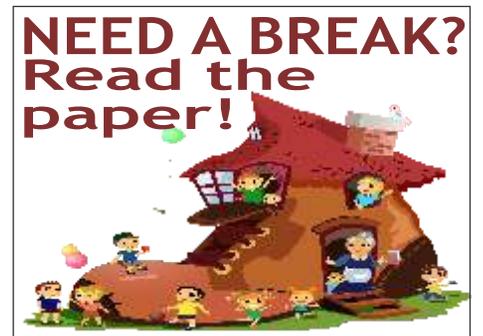
Ken Racioppi
MCREC V. Chair / Legis Lead

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.



P	L	U	M	P		M	E	T	E		S	L	A	W	
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In 2024, Library Assistant Kourtney Fehr donates school supplies on behalf of the Lady Lake Library to Villages Elementary of Lady Lake Principal Gregg Dudley

Back 2 School “Scoop” Event

Lady Lake hosts free Back 2 School “Scoop” Event

LADY LAKE — The Town of Lady Lake is helping local families gear up for the new school year with a fun, free Back 2 School “Scoop” event on Saturday, Aug. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at 237 W. Guava St.

This family-friendly event will offer a variety of resources to ensure kids are ready for a successful school year.

Highlights include:

Free haircuts by local barbers and hairstylists

Free eye screenings courtesy of Kids Sight

Health information provided by the Florida Department of Health

Free school supplies and backpacks full of goodies (must visit all vendor stations)

Free ice cream sundaes for participating children

Local organizations will also be on site with program information and sign-ups, including Lady Lake Baseball and Soccer, Iron Dragon Karate, and the Lady Lake Library, which will be offering free library cards for kids.

“This is a great opportunity for families to access helpful services and start the school year with everything their children need,” said Events Coordinator Amy Alicea.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Interested businesses or organizations should contact Amy Alicea at events@ladylake.org.

School Supply Drive

Lady Lake Library Hosts School Supply Drive

LADY LAKE — For the third consecutive year, the Lady Lake Library is hosting its annual “School Supplies for Fines” drive in support of area children.

This program is a great way for patrons to pay off fines while giving back to the community. The library will waive overdue material fees in exchange for donations of school supplies.

Donations can include No. 2 pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons, backpacks and more. There are no limits to the number of donations per person, though fines cannot be forgiven for library items that are lost or damaged. Those without fines are also encouraged to donate items, as each item will be used anonymously to forgive another patron's fines.

“This month, the Lady Lake Library is proud to bring back a community favorite—School Supplies for Fines,” said Library Director Aly Herman. “This program is exactly like the successful countywide Food for Fines program, and is another way to continue to support children in our community.”

Last year, the Lady Lake Library donated over 800 school supplies to The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake. In exchange for donations from the community, around \$800 in library fines were forgiven.

Donations will be accepted during regular business hours at the Lady Lake Library,

located at 225 W. Guava Street through July 31.

For more information, visit www.ladylakefl.gov or facebook.com/ladylakelibrary225.

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 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.”

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