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## LLPD Warns Residents About Scam

The Lady Lake Police Department is investigating two separate fraud cases reported over the weekend involving senior residents who suffered significant financial losses after being contacted by individuals posing as trusted institutions. In both cases, the victims were persuaded to transfer money under false pretenses – and in total lost nearly \$72,000.

While detectives are actively investigating, police are reminding residents, especially seniors and their families, that scammers continue to use increasingly sophisticated and convincing tactics to trick victims into sending money.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, Americans reported losing more than \$2.9 billion to imposter scams, with older adults bearing a disproportionate share of those losses. In 2024, consumers reported losing more money to scams where they paid with bank transfers or cryptocurrency – as is the case with these instances of fraud.

Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt stressed the importance of awareness and prevention:

“If someone calls, texts, or emails you claiming to be from your bank, a government agency, or a major company and asks you to move money, buy gift cards, or send funds through bitcoin or wire transfers, end the conversation immediately,” he said. “Legitimate organizations will never demand payment this way. When in doubt, hang up and call the institution directly using the number on your bank card or official paperwork.”

The Lady Lake Police Department encourages family members and caregivers to speak with their loved ones about fraud prevention. Anyone who believes they or someone they know may have been the target of a scam should contact the Lady Lake Police Department at 352-751-1560.

## Dead Body Found

**Lady Lake Police investigating dead body found at construction site**

At 2:12 PM on Sept. 11, 2025, the Lady Lake Police Department responded to a call from construction crews who discovered a body lying in tall grass at a construction site that has yet to be developed at the corner of CR 466 and CR 100 (Cherry Lake Road).

Upon arrival, officers confirmed the presence of a deceased person in advanced stages of decomposition. The body has not been identified at this time.

The scene has been secured, and the Lake County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit is providing technical support to the Lady Lake Criminal Investigation Unit. The State Medical Examiner's Office has been contacted and will be an integral part of the ongoing investigation.

There is no further information available at this time. Updates will be provided as the investigation progresses and once identification is made.



## Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market reopens Oct. 7

The Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market is thrilled to announce its grand opening this fall, welcoming vendors to participate in this vibrant community event.

The market will be held every Tuesday through April starting Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex, located at 250 Rolling Acres Road. The Jiffy Feet Band will perform live from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

With the goal of providing visitors with the best assortment of high-quality, homemade products, the Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market continues to actively seek vendors throughout the season.

The market promises to be an enjoyable experience for both vendors and visitors alike. Attendees will have the pleasure of perusing through an extensive array of fruits and vegetables, cheese, bread, local honey, art, crafts, and much more. The market is accessible by golf cart, bicycle, motorized scooter and wheelchair!

The Town invites small businesses specializing in food, art, crafts, and unique handmade items to be a part of this thriving market that attracts thousands seasonally. To apply to become a vendor, complete the vendor application on the Town's website at or email [market@ladylake.org](mailto:market@ladylake.org).

New this year, visitors may sign up for Market text alerts by texting LadyLakeMarket to 38276.

## Double Dose of Halloween Fun



This October, the Town of Lady Lake is conjuring up a double dose of Halloween fun with two events for every age and thrill level. From scary scenes to family-friendly festivities, Lady Lake is Lake County's go-to destination for spooky season.

Events kick off on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 7-9 p.m. when Snooky Park (120 W. Lady Lake Blvd.) is turned into Spooky Park's Haunted Trail. Brave guests will encounter ghosts, zombies, and vampires lurking in the shadows, with Scare Team members ensuring plenty of spine-tingling surprises. Admission is just \$5 per person.

For families with little ghosts and goblins, the fun continues on Saturday, Oct. 25 with

the Not Too Scary Halloween Boo Bash at the Guava Street Athletic Complex (221 W. Guava St.) from 6 to 8 p.m. This free annual event is packed with fun including Halloween-themed bounce houses, a costume contest, music, and food trucks. Prizes for the costume contest are sponsored by the Lady Lake Library, with categories 4 and under, 5–8, 9 and up, and family groups.

“We are so excited to host these events that really capture the magic and excitement of Halloween,” said Amy Alicea, Lady Lake Events Coordinator. “Whether you're into all things spooky or enjoy dressing up the family and filling your Halloween baskets with candy, we've got something for everyone in our community.”

With a haunted trail for thrill seekers and a Boo Bash for families, Lady Lake is officially the place to celebrate Halloween this season.

Stay connected by texting LLHalloween25 to 38276 for event updates. For more information, contact Amy Alicea at [events@ladylake.org](mailto:events@ladylake.org), call 352-205-2826, or visit [www.ladylakefl.gov](http://www.ladylakefl.gov).

# Town News Lake County Events

## Sergeant Graduates From FBI Academy

LADY LAKE — Lady Lake Police Department Sergeant Charles Gehrsitz has graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He is the first officer to be accepted into the academy from the Lady Lake Police Department, joining the ranks of 56,000 law enforcement professionals worldwide who have completed the program since its founding in 1935.

Internationally recognized for its academic excellence, the FBI National Academy offers 10 weeks of advanced training in communication, leadership, and fitness. Participants are seasoned law enforcement leaders selected through a competitive nomination process. Graduates typically return to their agencies to assume senior leadership positions.

Sergeant Gehrsitz, who began his career with the Lady Lake Police Department in 2014, was promoted to Sergeant in 2018 and currently supervises the department's Criminal Investigations Division.

Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt praised Sergeant Gehrsitz's achievement, noting his leadership and dedication.

"Sergeant Gehrsitz has excelled as a proactive, productive, and highly effective leader in our department," said Chief Hunt. "He has taken on responsibilities often handled by lieutenants in larger agencies, developed policy revisions, implemented technology upgrades, and represented our department in public forums. His graduation from the FBI National Academy is a testament to his hard work, professionalism, and commitment to serving the Lady Lake community."

With Sergeant Gehrsitz's graduation, the Lady Lake Police Department now has four National Academy graduates: Chief Hunt (Session 238), Deputy Chief Jason Brough (Session 248), Evidence Technician Scott Kolb (Session 239), and Sergeant Gehrsitz (Session 295).

The 295th session included 254 law enforcement officers from 49 states, the District of Columbia, 20 countries, six military organizations, and four federal civilian agencies.

## Celebrate Lady Lake's Centennial

LADY LAKE —The Town of Lady Lake's Centennial this year is a momentous occasion, providing an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and envision the future of our community.

A week of Centennial events in November, planned by Lady Lake Parks & Recreation, will bring together residents, visitors, and partners to commemorate 100 years of history, culture, and community spirit!

On October 19, 1925, the Town of Lady Lake held its inaugural meeting, marking the official incorporation of the town. The area was originally inhabited by Seminole Indians and began to flourish as a settlement around 1883, with the

establishment of a railway depot circa 1883-84, serving as a catalyst for growth and development. Lady Lake has a rich history as a center along a bustling railway and a purveyor of citrus and watermelon, contributing significantly to the region's agricultural heritage. The Lady Lake Historical Society Museum offers visitors an insightful journey into the past.

We invite everyone to participate in the various events and activities planned from Nov. 3 through 8 to celebrate this historic milestone.

Lady Lake Centennial Celebration Events Week

- Mon, Nov. 3: Centennial Proclamation – Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- Tue, Nov. 4: Stroll Through History – Farmers Market at Rolling Acres Sports Complex, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Wed, Nov. 5: History Haul – Heritage Park, 3–6 p.m.
- Thu, Nov. 6: Centennial Cake Cutting – Veterans' Park Log Cabin, 6 p.m.
- Fri, Nov. 7: Taste of Lady Lake Speakeasy – Lady Lake Library, 6:30–9 p.m.
- Sat. morning, Nov. 8: Pancake Breakfast in the Park – Snooky Park, 8–10 a.m.
- Sat. evening, Nov. 8: Centennial Celebration with fireworks – Guava Street Athletic Complex, 5–9 p.m.

To learn more about these upcoming Centennial celebrations, visit [ladylakefl.gov/505/Centennial-Celebration](http://ladylakefl.gov/505/Centennial-Celebration), follow us on Facebook and YouTube at @TownofLadyLake or text LadyLake100 to 38276.

## Snooky Park or Spooky Park?

**Help Us Turn Snooky Park into Spooky Park!**

**Calling All Businesses, Community Groups, and Individuals!**

Join us in transforming Snooky Park into the spine-chilling Spooky Park for the Town of Lady Lake's new Halloween event! We're seeking creative and brave souls to sponsor a scare zone and bring their haunted visions to life.

Date: October 18

Time: 7-9 p.m. (One Night Only!)

Location: Snooky Park

Each participant is asked to create a haunted area (50'x 12') with the Town of Lady Lake providing the outer walls. You'll be responsible for your themed decorations, props, and staffing your designated area. Each area includes 4 electrical outlets for your use. This is a haunted trail designed to give attendees a fright, but remember, it's a family-friendly event!

Sponsor participants will be recognized with signage and shout-outs on social media!

To participate, contact Events Coordinator Amy Alicea at 352-205-2826 or [events@ladylake.org](mailto:events@ladylake.org). Text LLHalloween25 to 38276 for event updates. Let's make this Halloween unforgettable at Spooky Park!

This October, the Town of Lady Lake is

**CRAFT WITH A GOP**  
At the Lady Lake Public Library

**Tuesday  
October 7th  
3:30pm**

Join us for a craft with our police officers.

**Lady Lake Public Library  
225 West Guava Street  
Lady Lake, Florida  
32159**

conjuring up a double dose of Halloween fun with two events for every age and thrill level. From scary scenes to family-friendly festivities, Lady Lake is Lake County's go-to destination for spooky season.

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Latisha Anderson

Dr. Tweet Coleman Nancy Stampahar Heather McFall

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## LL Garden Club

The next meeting of the Lady Lake Garden Club is Wed October 1st at the Lady Lake community Building 237 W. Guava St, Lady Lake, FL. Members and guests share in refreshments at 1 PM and the meeting begins at 1:30 PM. The program will be presented by Horticulturist Elly Carroll on "How to Grow and Care for Phalaenopsis Orchids" All interested gardeners and prospective new members are welcome. If you would like more information, contact Teri Mallory, President at 781-630-2108 or [terinp@verizon.net](mailto:terinp@verizon.net).

- Suspect: was arrested on January 8, 2024, after a 16-day manhunt. He is charged with premeditated first-degree murder and two counts of attempted second-degree murder.

- Victim: The shooting resulted in the death of 40-year-old man. Two other people were also injured.

- Motive: According to police, The suspect and the victim knew each other and had an ongoing conflict, suggesting the shooting was targeted.

- Capture: Suspect was apprehended at a home southwest of Ocala after a standoff with law enforcement, which included the Ocala Police Department and the U.S. Marshals Service.

- Status of the case: Suspect has pleaded not guilty, and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. His trial is currently scheduled to begin in June 2025.

## Two Arrested at Spanish Springs

Villages Community Watch was instrumental in helping LLPD make these two arrests. It is another great example of the positive working relationship we have with Community Watch.

A man and woman were arrested for felony charge for visiting a construction Site. The two in there 50's arrested had different last names. That is all the information at press time.

## Paddock Mall Shooting

Suspect Arrested in Mall Shooting

A suspect was identified and arrested in the December 23, 2023, Paddock Mall shooting in Ocala.

Details on the suspect and the case:

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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



I have heard & read many tax payers complaining online about Marion County Taxes affecting their monthly payments on their Mortgage. (Especially the elderly. The area was from Rainbow Springs,

OTOW, Lake Tropicana Estates, Rainbow Lakes estates, Rainbows Inn, Marion Oaks and several others in Ocala along 200. When the county raises the taxes it raises the value of their home then the insurance Company can raise their prices, leaving the home owners at the mercy of the insurance Company's and maybe the mortgage company. Go online and look at the fore closers in Marion. Marion County is going to be named the most expensive county to live in Florida. When you call the county says you if you make less than a certain amount per year you can apply. NO it should be the Insurance Company's should give the

people over 65 a rebate at the end of the year to help pay the taxes the county just raised again! Please Marion County Board of Directors, read the letter I sent you, or did it go into the trash that we have to pay for.

Trump has not attacking Venezuela WE hit two drug boats and said he we will stop all drug boats that we can that are at sea. We are not attacking a country we are stopping illegal drugs.

People who are in fear of being harmed carry a defensive weapon so at least you can fight back. I noticed the girl that got stabbed and killed sat on the train with her back to the killer. She was not expecting any problems on her trip home. If she had her back against the wall and was expecting trouble at least she might have had a chance to fight! That killer was a coward and deserves to die! Maybe we can put him down like he put her down. That might happen in prison.

What is a Turnpike Club, They supposedly raised a lot of money with a golf tourney for a charity. I hope that is not the same Turnpike that has been trying to take private land or put their extension through farms??? Maybe that's just the name.

I'm reading things on the Gov. watchdog says there has been a large number of firings because Government Employees are watching PORN during working hours and on Government issued phones?

A 36 year old man walked into the NYPD and attack a police officer with a knife slashing him on the face. Attacker was not captured his body was taken into custody.

A 9-year-old student in Marion County was arrested on September 9, 2025, for bringing a loaded revolver onto a school bus headed to College Park Elementary School.

Epstein files investigation during a transcript from Ghislaine Maxwell the jailed associate of Epstein has said that Clinton or Trump never said or did anything inappropriate.

They can't leave it there can they? What happens if there are some very influential World Leaders brought to light Leaders of allied countries of the world, or there family members. That is not the business of the United States! The United States should not take it further if it did not involve our leaders. If it does and now it has been disclosed, it is certainly not the president

and not the one I thought would be involved (Clinton).

I think this Epstein thing involves world leaders and that is why the Epstein crimes cannot be exposed. Maybe a few leaders involved but now it has been disclosed they will slink off into the darkness. We have some unexplained resignations.

Right after Ghislaine the interview she was moved from Florida prison to a Texas prison probably because as he is a target. Remember two people died by suicide. Some say they were murdered!

I see a lot of voices on Neighbors blog complaining about taxes. Most on the west side of the county and most are seniors. The county fathers and mothers need to remember 28.3% of the voters are seniors. Also remember they offer financial stability to the economy here because they get check every month and spend money. If you don't believe me just try to go shopping on the first of the month.

I also complained to the Governor about him announcing the financial aid he is giving small towns, nothing for Dunnellon. To the west they received money. How does the state decide who gets money? Maybe they want those areas to develop?

I wonder how the bear hunt went. When the state had to trap a nuisance bear they released many of them in golf hammock. Hunters in that area are making comments

Continued page 6

## Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for November

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, October 21st

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, October 26th

## Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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Publisher: Tom Loury

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## FAIRTAX



Home ownership is a big part of the American dream and the FAIRtax can play a big part in helping to realize that dream. Under the current income tax system, working families are at a disadvantage when trying to save for a home of their own.

\*First, there is federal withholding from your paychecks which feeds the government before you can feed your family. Everything you purchase is with post-tax dollars reducing your buying power.

\*Second, when you purchase items necessary for everyday living, you are paying the 17-30% of the embedded tax costs that are created and hidden within the cost of those items. Remember, corporations do not pay taxes, they simply pass them

along to you in the price at the retail level.  
\*Third, if you try to bank money in a savings account, you are taxed on any interest that may accrue. The same holds true for any investments you may be able to make.

How can the FAIRtax help?

\*First, under the FAIRtax there is no federal withholding from your paycheck giving you an instant "raise" in pay as you bring home what you earn.

\*Second, although embedded costs will be removed, items for retail sale are subject to the FAIRtax. This should leave prices relatively the same but remember, you are now purchasing those items with pre-taxed dollars giving you more buying power. Plus you will be receiving the "prebate" which reimburses you for the tax paid up to your poverty line. You can save even more if you purchase "used" goods as these items are no longer subject to the FAIRtax.

\*Third, under the FAIRtax there is no tax on savings and investments making saving for that home much quicker and easier. For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

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[HABITATLS.ORG](http://HABITATLS.ORG)

# Publisher Notes

Continued from page 4

about encountering more bears than ever before. Maybe that is why the bear season was opened the state is running out of places to release them.

I recently read something it said :

It's not about being better than someone else!

It's about being than you were the day before.

I believe in that. I have recently apologized for an email that I had from a bad day!

I did not want to wear the close my father bought me, so I got a newspaper job at nine and have been working ever since! I worked selling the FT Lauderdale news selling papers on Dania Beach draw bridge. The bridge would open the line would form and I sold paper down the line. For my age I made good money and bought my own close!

# #1 in Education Freedom

## Florida Ranks #1 in Education Freedom for the Fourth Consecutive Year

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis announced the Heritage Foundation ranked Florida number one in Education Freedom for the fourth consecutive year. Florida's expansion of school choice and support of parental rights directly led to this top ranking.

"In Florida, we are committed to ensuring parents have the power to make the education decisions that are best for their child," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Florida offers a robust array of educational choices, which has solidified our state as a national leader in education freedom, parental power, and overall K-12 education."

"Earning the #1 ranking for Education Freedom for the fourth consecutive year affirms a simple principle: education decisions belong to families," said Commissioner of Education Anastasio Kamoutsas. "Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida will continue honoring parents' right to choose the best educational

option for their child's individualized needs. I am proud that Florida offers so many educational options that parents can have confidence in."

The Education Freedom Report Card began in 2022, and Florida has earned the top ranking every year since its inception. The report card uses five categories: school choice, transparency, regulatory freedom, civic education and spending to rank states.

In addition to Florida receiving the overall top spot for Education Freedom, Florida also earned high rankings in the following categories:

- #1 for Education Choice due to empowering parents across Florida to choose the best learning environment for their children.
- #1 for Civic Education due to Florida's requirement for students to take a course in civics and the use of the Classical Learning Test for admissions at state universities.
- #1 for Academic Transparency due to Florida's expansive legislation allowing parents to access classroom materials and Florida's Parental Bill of Rights.
- #1 for Teacher Freedom due to Florida's alternative pathways to entering the teaching profession.

The full Education Freedom Report Card can be viewed on the [Heritage Foundation website](#)

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# LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

**Oct 02**  
**Pet Blessing at First Presbyterian**  
 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**  
 Pet Blessing at First Presbyterian Mount Dora. Bring your beloved furry, feathered & scaly friends to receive a special blessing for their health and happiness

**Oct 02**  
**Paws for Children Pet Blessing at First Presbyterian Preschool**  
 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**  
 A special Paws for Children Pet Blessing at 11:30 in front of the First Presbyterian Preschool on MacDonald street side of the building is for children...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 04**  
**Big Sit**  
 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM McDonald Canal Boat Ramp in **Mount Dora**  
 A "Big Sit" is a semi-competitive birding event where participants count all the birds they can see or hear within a 17-foot circle.

**Oct 04**  
**Bat Party with S'mores**  
 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Flat Island Preserve in **Leesburg**  
 Celebrate the spooky season with us at Flat Island preserve for our Bat Party. Join staff to learn about bats. Take a short hike and finish with s'mores...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 04**  
**Fall in the Field**  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Renningers Antique Center in **Mount Dora**10/410/5

Antique Center, Consignment, Street of Shops, The Stables, Pavilions, and Outdoors. Fall is here! Come shop a selection of vendors featuring items for t...  
[Event Website](#)

**Oct 05**  
**Exploration Hike**  
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM P.E.A.R. Park (Gateway) in **Leesburg**10/511/212/7  
 Join staff on an early evening walk while exploring nature at P.E.A.R. Park. Hike Intensity: Light. Reservations required.

**Oct 05**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**  
 World Communion Sunday at First at Presbyterian promotes Christian unity and celebrates the worldwide connection with all brothers and sisters in Christ...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 05**  
**World Communion Sunday (11am Service)**  
 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**  
 First Presbyterian Mount Dora celebrates World Communion at a 9:00 casual café-style service and at 11:00 traditional service. The world communion servi...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 05**  
**Exploration Hike**  
 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Pear Park (Gateway) in **Leesburg**  
 Join staff on an early evening walk to get

some exercise while exploring nature at P.E.A.R. Park. Hiking Intensity: Light. Reservations required.  
[Event Website](#)

**Oct 05**  
**Jazz on the Lawn at Sydonie: Joseph Jevanni & iNtensity**  
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Sydonie Mansion in **Mount Dora**  
 Enjoy live jazz music on the front lawn of Sydonie Mansion. Howey Music Series hosts a family-friendly concert with Joseph Jevanni & iNtensity. Bring y...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 06**  
**Planting Day**  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake May Reserve in **Eustis**  
 Come and join us to add some native plant diversity to Lake May Reserve by planting wildflowers. Hiking Intensity: Moderate. Reservations Required.

**Oct 08**  
**Water Wednesday**  
 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Hickory Point in **Tavares**  
 In time for creepy crawly season, explore the insects, spiders, and other creepy crawlies that live in Florida's wetlands and their ecological roles. Su...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 10**  
 Featured Event  
**Discover Leesburg**  
 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in **Leesburg**10/1011/1412/12  
 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...  
[Event Website](#)

**Oct 11**  
**Global Big Day**  
 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead in **Minneola**  
 Join Lake County staff in county birds for Cornell University's eBird Global Big Day in which birders from all over the world will submit checklists to ...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 11**  
**The Habitats and Natural History of Snakes**  
 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail & Trailhead in **Sorrento**  
 Venture into the realm of snakes and a discussion with park staff about the different habitats and natural history of venomous and non-venomous snakes. ...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 11**  
**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 Saturday, October 11 from 6-9 PM! Ages 18+, no cover. Enjoy great food,...[Event Website](#)

**Oct 17**  
**Fall Wildflowers and Grasses**  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM P.E.A.R. Park (Nature Center/WCA) in **Leesburg**  
 Join us for a fall wildflower and native bunch grasses hike through the P.E.A.R. Meadow and other ecosystems. Hike Intensity: Moderate. Reservations R...[Event Website](#)



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# LL Business Luncheon Eaton's Beach

Eaton's Beach Sandbar & Grill Chamber of Commerce and its options to the fast & friendly service. customer service for your next event, opened their restaurant to members. Everything was excellent, If you're looking for a beautiful view, look no further than Eaton's Beach. accommodate the Lady Lake Area from the many delicious menu a delicious menu, and excellent



Lady  
Lake  
Chamber





# DISASTER SUPPLY KIT CHECKLIST



## General

- Two week minimum supply of medication, regularly used medical supplies, and a list of allergies
- A list of the style, serial number, and manufacturer information of required medical devices
- Batteries
- Flashlights  
*Do not use candles*
- NOAA Weather Radio  
*Battery operated or hand cranked*
- Cash  
*Banks and ATMs may not be available after a storm*
- Cell phone chargers
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Phone Numbers

- Maintain a list of important phone numbers including:  
*County emergency management office, evacuation sites, doctors, banks, schools, veterinarian, a number for out of town contacts, friends and family*

## Clothing

- Rain gear such as jackets, hats, umbrellas and rain boots
- Sturdy shoes or boots and work gloves

## Special Needs Items

- Specialty items for infants, small children, the elderly, and family members with disabilities

## First Aid

- First Aid Manual
- Sterile adhesive bandages of different sizes
- Sterile gauze pads
- Hypoallergenic adhesive tape
- Triangular bandages
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Sewing needle
- Moistened towelettes
- Antiseptic
- Disinfectant wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Thermometer
- Tube of petroleum jelly
- Safety pins
- Soap
- Latex gloves
- Sunscreen
- Aspirin or other pain reliever
- Anti-diarrheal medicine
- Antacid
- Laxative
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips

## Food and Water

- Food  
*Nonperishable packaged or canned food and beverages, snack foods, juices, baby food, and any special dietary items to last at least 7 days*
- Water  
*1 gallon per person per day*
- Non-electric can opener
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- Plastic cups
- Utensils

## Important Documents

- Insurance cards
- Medical records
- Banking information
- Credit card numbers
- Copies of social security cards
- Copies of birth and/or marriage certificates
- Other personal documents
- Set of car, house, and office keys
- Service animal I.D., veterinary records, and proof of ownership
- Information about where you receive medication, the name of the drug, and dosage
- Copy of Will

*\*Items should be kept in a water proof container*

## Vehicle

- Keep your motor vehicle tanks filled with gasoline

## Pet Care Items

- Pet food and water to last at least 7 days
- Proper identification
- Medical records/microchip information
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Water and food bowls
- Medications
- Supplies for your service animal

Find more disaster preparedness tips at [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org)

# Youth OCTOBER

## Lady Lake Library

TOWN OF LADY LAKE'S SPOOKY PARK'S HAUNTED TRAIL  
 LOCATED AT SNOOKY PARK  
 OCTOBER 18 AT 7-10 P.M.  
 NOT SO SCARY BOO BASH  
 FEATURING MUSIC, FOOD, AND FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES  
 LOCATED AT GUAVA STREET ATHLETIC COMPLEX  
 OCTOBER 25 AT 6-8 P.M.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Alphabet Adventures</b> Special 26 Week Program Every Monday @11:30am Starting October 6 (Ages 3-5)	<b>Ages 12-17</b> Enter the Terrifying Typer Contest Deadline is Oct 30 Winner Announced on 31st	<b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <sup>1</sup> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Tween (Ages 11-14)</b> <sup>2</sup> <b>Krafting Kandy</b> @3:30-4:30pm	<b>Little Sprouts Playtime</b> <sup>3</sup> (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am <b>Lego Masters</b> @ 3:30-4:30pm
<b>Craft Kits Available!</b> <sup>6</sup> While supplies last. KPop Anime Film Movie Presentation @4:00 pm All Ages Welcome	<b>Tiny Tots</b> <sup>7</sup> @ 10:30am <b>Craft with a Cop</b> @ 3:30pm	<b>Teddy Bear</b> <sup>8</sup> Storytime 10:30am (Bring your teddy and join us in a parade through the library) <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Teen (Ages 15-17)</b> <sup>9</sup> <b>Krafting Kandy</b> @3:30-4:30pm	<b>Little Sprouts Playtime</b> <sup>10</sup> (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am <b>Video Games</b> @3:30-4:30pm
<b>Craft Kits Available!</b> <sup>13</sup> While supplies last.	<b>Tiny Tots</b> <sup>14</sup> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	<b>Storytime 10:30am</b> <sup>15</sup> <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Page Masters</b> <sup>16</sup> <b>Tween Book Club</b> @4:00pm Ages 11-14	<b>Little Sprouts Playtime</b> <sup>17</sup> (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am <b>Lego Masters</b> @ 3:30-4:30pm
<b>Ink Dwellers</b> <sup>20</sup> <b>Teen Book Club</b> @4:00pm (Ages 15-17) Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	<b>Tiny Tots</b> <sup>21</sup> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	<b>Butterfly Storytime</b> <sup>22</sup> @10:30am <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Tweens Event!</b> <sup>23</sup> <b>Craft a Cemetary!</b> (Ages 11-14) @4:00pm	<b>Little Sprouts Playtime</b> <sup>24</sup> (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am <b>Video Games</b> @3:30-4:30pm
<b>Senpai Squad</b> <sup>27</sup> Ages 11-17 @4:00pm Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	<b>Tiny Tots</b> <sup>28</sup> @ 10:30am <b>Family Crafting</b> @ 3:30pm	<b>Trick 'R Treat</b> <sup>29</sup> <b>Storytime (Wear</b> <b>Your Costume)</b> @10:30am <b>Read with Scarlett</b> 3:00pm-4:00pm	<b>Teens Event!</b> <sup>30</sup> <b>Craft a Cemetary!</b> (Ages 15-17) @4:00pm	<b>Little Sprouts Playtime</b> <sup>31</sup> (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am <b>Lego Masters</b> @ 3:30-4:30pm

# Adult OCTOBER

## Lady Lake Library

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<sup>1</sup> <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	<sup>2</sup> 	<sup>3</sup>
<b>Chair Yoga</b> <sup>6</sup> @10am & @11:30am <b>ESL @10-11:30am</b> (Sign Up Required)	<sup>7</sup> <b>Book Discussion</b> @ 2-4pm	<sup>8</sup> <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	<sup>9</sup>	<sup>10</sup>
<b>Chair Yoga</b> <sup>13</sup> @10am & @11:30am <b>ESL @10-11:30am</b> (Sign Up Required)	<sup>14</sup> 	<b>Authors</b> <sup>15</sup> <b>Round Table</b> @ 2-4pm <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	<b>Board Games</b> <sup>16</sup> <b>Meetup!</b> @3-5pm	<b>Crochet and</b> <sup>17</sup> <b>Knitting Hangout</b> @ 3-4:30pm
<b>Chair Yoga</b> <sup>20</sup> @10am & @11:30am <b>ESL @10-11:30am</b> (Sign Up Required) • <b>Page Turners Book Club</b> @5:30pm (local author)	<b>The Culture and</b> <sup>21</sup> <b>Festivals of</b> <b>Rural China</b> @ 10-11am (Room 219)	<b>Book Signing</b> <sup>22</sup> (Local Author) @12-1pm <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	<b>Let's Talk</b> <sup>23</sup> <b>Books</b> @ 2pm	<b>Apple Support</b> <sup>24</sup> iPhone, iPad, iMac @ 10:00-11:00am
<b>Chair Yoga</b> <sup>27</sup> @10am & @11:30am <b>ESL @10-11:30am</b> (Sign Up Required)	<sup>28</sup> 	<sup>29</sup> <b>SHINE 2-4pm</b>	<b>Bingo!</b> <sup>30</sup> @2-3:30pm sign up required	<sup>31</sup> <b>HAPPY HALLOWEEN</b>

## Home Break-in Arrest

**Lady Lake police arrest man for break-in at home of elderly woman**

A 53-year-old man was arrested on Friday after he forced his way into a 78-year-old woman's home, attempted to steal her purse, and injured her during the struggle.

Lady Lake Police officers responded to a home on St. Andrews Boulevard around 3:28 p.m. on Aug. 8 after the victim reported that a man had knocked on her door asking for her vehicle keys. Police say he then pushed his way inside, grabbed her purse, and tried to find the keys.

The victim bravely fought to hold on to her belongings, stating "You're not getting my car keys." She was able to push the suspect back outside and call 911. Police responded quickly and located the suspect nearby on St. Andrews Blvd. The victim was able to identify the suspect at the scene.

The victim suffered swelling and redness to her hand.

Craig Steven Johnson, 53, who is listed as homeless, was taken into custody and charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling with battery, robbery by sudden snatching, and battery on a person 65 years or older.

Johnson told officers he had been fleeing from law enforcement when he broke into the home.

The victim sent a letter to the Lady Lake Police department thanking all five officers involved in making the arrest. "Because of their fast response and my detailed description of this person, he was apprehended within 20 minutes or so..." she wrote.

"This was a frightening and unacceptable

attack on one of our senior residents," said Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt. "I am proud of the quick response from our officers, which ensured the suspect was apprehended before anyone else was harmed."

## LLPD Issues 150 Citations

**Lady Lake Police Department issues 150 citations and warnings**

The Lady Lake Police Department issued 91 warnings and 59 citations during a weeklong traffic enforcement campaign aimed at reducing speed-related crashes.

From July 14–20, officers dedicated approximately 80 hours to traffic enforcement as part of the Florida Department of Transportation's annual Operation Southern Slow Down. The campaign is a multi-state initiative involving law enforcement agencies across Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Tennessee.

During the enforcement, Lady Lake police issued 39 citations and 91 written warnings for speeding, 13 citations for aggressive driving, and seven citations for seatbelt violations. No DUI arrests were reported during the campaign.

The goal of Operation Southern Slow Down is to curb dangerous driving behaviors that continue to be a leading factor in traffic crashes, injuries and fatalities across the state. According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, speeding and aggressive driving contributed to 437 traffic deaths in Florida in 2023.

"This campaign gives us an opportunity to remind drivers that speeding and aggressive

driving put everyone at risk," said Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt. "Enforcement is just one piece—awareness and personal responsibility are just as important."

The Lady Lake Police Department encourages all motorists to drive within posted speed limits, wear seatbelts, and avoid aggressive behaviors behind the wheel.

## Killing of Charlie Kirk

From information on news media of all kinds! Gathered by TomL

On September 10, 2025, Charlie Kirk, Conservative activist and Turning Point USA co-founder A political activist, author, and media personality, was fatally shot while addressing an audience on the campus of Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. A lot of the media was not very kind to him and his purpose in life. At a very young age he decided to try to help change the world or at least America. He started several organizations to help educate the college students about American History and our beilifs. He was very convincing to the point many of the political leaders say he helped get Trump elected because he believed that Trump was the one to make change.

In the past I did not know a lot about Charlie Kirk so I'm finding out more now. I saw him on FOX news but I did not know how selfless he was. He believed in God and so do I. He believed in debating young college students so they would examine their thoughts about politics instead of believing what they are told by their Professors! I am looking at who was he and what was. In the news I have heard different reporter. They

called him...

First a Family Man; Christian; Patriot; Author; Media Personality; Crusader; Political activist; Charismatic; Evangelist; Conservative; activist; Preacher of hope;

Charlie Kirk was shot and killed at an event he was hosting at Utah Valley University "which should considered a sanctuary talking the youth of America. Some of the media will not use the word assassinated they are saying he was killed. Donald Trump is blaming it on the actions and hate speeches from the left. I heard a Governor say in a speech just this week. It's OK to get in their face, take cell phone pictures, get verbal. Well some people think they need to get violent, take lives especially those who can't analyze things. I think we will be surprised now that we catch the persons, what the motivation was? It will lead to mental illness and he was drove to it!

Now here we are facing death again. Ex FBI agent says they are still tracking cell phone activity to known Social Media enemys of Charlie Kirk. They have a picture of the shooter they think he shot Kirk jumped off the building then ran out with the crowd. The college also has auto tag ID on traffic coming and going. They are using some AI to track the killers.

To end this story I am appalled at the left denying the right to pray for Charlie Kirk and his family as they gathered in Washington! Please pray for them! Anyone that not let them pray kid them out of office. TOML said that!

**What Say You?  
TLourey@att.net**



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## FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



### Leading America's Deportation Efforts

Florida isn't backing down—we're doubling down. The new Deportation Depot at Baker Correctional in Sanderson, FL is now open and ready to house up to 1,500 detainees just 15 minutes from the runway, modeled after the "Alligator Alcatraz." Thank you to President Trump, Governor DeSantis, local officials, and everyone who worked tirelessly to make this happen and keep Florida safe!

### Strengthening National Defense & Local Jobs

Just days before Baby Augusta arrived, I met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advance the 81st Readiness Division project in Alachua County—the first Equipment Concentration Supply (ECS) Unit in Florida. This will boost local economic development, improve hurricane readiness, and strengthen our national defense. Once complete, this project will serve as a model for future military readiness infrastructure across the state.

### Honoring Florida's First Responders

Florida's first responders are the very definition of courage and selflessness. The stories highlighted through the SKY Valor Honors Program remind us that behind every uniform is a man or woman willing to run toward danger when others run away. From law enforcement to fire rescue to EMS, these heroes don't just serve—they protect, comfort, and inspire us every single day. I was honored to recognize each of the Valor

Award recipients with personal letters as small way to personally recognize their incredible service. Thank you all for everything you do and thank you to our friends at the SKY for their unwavering support!

### Federal, State, and Local Leaders Connect in Newberry

Team Kat joined the joint municipal legislative town hall in Newberry, where we shared federal updates alongside our state and local counterparts, who outlined their priorities. While the room was lively at times, we're grateful for the engagement and extend our thanks to the City of Newberry for organizing. These conversations are invaluable as we work together to deliver results for North Central Florida.

### Hearing Directly From You

During my latest telephone town hall, constituents made it clear: lower prices, cut wasteful spending, deport illegal immigrants. Loud and clear—FL-03 is ready for action. From D.C. to North Central Florida, our mission is the same: to put Florida families and American workers first. Thank you for staying engaged and making your voice heard.

### Cammack Votes to Pass FY2026 NDAA

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) released the following statement after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

*"This year's NDAA not only strengthens our national defense—it delivers real*

*solutions to the challenges Americans face at home and abroad. By securing our supply chains, boosting cybersecurity, advancing cutting-edge research at universities, and cracking down on fentanyl trafficking, we're giving our service members the tools they need while protecting our communities," said Congresswoman Cammack. "I'm proud that nine of my amendments were included in this year's bill, and I remain committed to ensuring America stays strong, secure, and ready to meet any challenge."*

### Background:

The FY26 NDAA includes Congresswoman Cammack's amendments to secure defense and medical supply chains, bolster cybersecurity and advanced technology research, improve accountability and readiness within the Department of Defense, and strengthen interagency efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking. These provisions specifically address:

- Supply Chain & Industrial Base Security
- GAO study on Chinese-sourced materials in munitions, microelectronics, and energy storage.
- DoD assessment of vulnerabilities in medical supply chains, including Chinese APIs and devices.
- Cybersecurity & Technology
- Expanding NSA support to share cyber threat intelligence with the defense and telecom sectors.
- Requiring a DoD report on cyber training interoperability and potential for a unified cyber academy.
- Directing DoD to prioritize university partnerships in advanced research areas like hypersonics, biotech, and AI.
- Defense Accountability & Readiness
- Establishing a timeline and annual

reporting requirement for the Department of Defense to achieve a clean audit.

Directing a report on Navy aviation maintenance backlogs and aircraft availability, with attention to Florida bases.

Requiring a DoD/FEMA report on National Guard equipment shortfalls and disaster response capabilities.

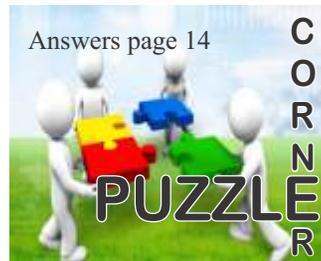
Counter-Narcotics & Interagency Cooperation

Expanding DoD coordination with HHS and DOJ on fentanyl operations and precursor chemical monitoring.

# NEED A BREAK? Read the paper online!



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- Answers page 14
- Across
1. Simple form of payment
  5. Come to light
  10. Certain protest
  14. As soon as
  15. Philanthropist
  16. Mayberry resident
  17. Silenced
  20. It takes a licking and keeps on ticking
  21. Period of many years
  22. Canted
  23. Paper contents
  25. Baseball's Steve
  26. Sophisticated
  29. Fusillade
  31. Surfacing gunk
  32. Silenced
  37. Turkish dignitaries
  40. "Is that so!"
  41. Hold another hearing
  42. Silenced
  45. Fabulize

46. Buttinsky
47. They don't compare with oranges
50. Kostof and Agnew
53. Prepare the paint
54. Yuletide song
55. Conciliatory offering
57. Tropical lizard
61. Silenced
64. Take the bait
65. Lollygags
66. Natural emollient
67. Served up a winner
68. Elbow counterparts
69. Deflects from a course
- Down
1. It can be checked
2. Not in favor of
3. Cozenage
4. Capital of Montana
5. Radio plugs
6. Valentine favorite
7. Insider dirt
8. Before long
9. Slip or trip, e.g.
10. Print below the text
11. Month of showers
12. Walk like a crab
13. Easily irritated
18. The yoke's on them
19. Written exemption
24. Allowing alcohol
25. Kind of shot
26. Colorado natives
27. Incline
28. Camembert relative
29. Dirty look
30. Grows wiser, e.g.
33. Eye cheesecake, e.g.
34. "\_\_\_ have to do"
35. Canal of song
36. Isn't a natural blonde
38. Looked into again, as a criminal case
39. Move down a Web site page
43. How-do-you-dos
44. Took a load off
48. Some intelligent animals
49. Square-up ahead of time
50. Diving gear
51. Hysterical mood
52. At pique's peak?
53. Shopping frenzy
55. Oliver's Laurel
56. Sludge
58. Popular soft drink
59. Have no doubts
60. Keats feats
62. It's game
63. Man of Steel monogram

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FROM THE DESK OF  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE**



**Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Launch of New Portal to Combat Violent Extremism**

ORLANDO, Fla.—Attorney General Uthmeier joined Commissioner of Education Anastasios

Kamoutsas at Valencia College to announce the launch of new tool for citizens to help identify and combat politically-motivated violence.

The secure online portal allows the public to submit screenshots, videos, and other evidence of threats of violent extremism directly to Attorney General Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution. Submissions may be anonymous. Prosecutors will review each report and, where appropriate, prosecute those responsible for the threat. **This portal is not intended for emergencies.** Citizens facing an immediate threat should **call 911.**

"The idea of someone being assassinated for peacefully opposing such radical ideals is vile and anti-American," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier.** "Threats of political violence will not be tolerated in Florida. That is why today we are launching a new tool, simply named the Combat Violent Extremism Portal, to report acts or threats of political violence."

"Any individual who makes a threat that violates Florida law will be dealt with immediately," said **Statewide Prosecutor Brad McVay.** "We look forward to working closely with our law enforcement partners to enhance the efforts to safeguard the Free State of Florida from political violence."

"Any educator who makes vile, despicable comments celebrating and encouraging violence in schools will be

investigated and held accountable," said **Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas.** "Thank you Attorney General James Uthmeier for supporting these efforts and helping us ensure Florida's students have the highest quality teachers leading their instruction."

The announcement follows a troubling rise in politically motivated attacks nationwide. Federal reports show assaults on ICE officers have surged by more than 1000% over the past year. Conservative leader and generational icon Charlie Kirk was recently assassinated, with online threats and celebrations of his murder spreading in the aftermath.

The launch of the Combat Violent Extremism Portal reflects Florida's commitment to proactive prevention. By equipping Floridians with a direct channel to prosecutors, the state is strengthening its ability to identify credible threats, disrupt plots before violence occurs, and ensure accountability for those who attempt to endanger lives or undermine public safety.

The Combat Violent Extremism Portal is now live and can be accessed at [myfloridalegal.com/CVE](http://myfloridalegal.com/CVE)

**Attorney General James Uthmeier Charges Another Snapchat Predator with Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging Luke Sedlock, Green Cove Springs, with three felony counts of possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) as well as three felony counts of unlawful use of a two-way communication device.

"Over and over again, our office is prosecuting predators who are using Snapchat to trade disgusting content and victimize children. Protecting our kids is my

utmost priority," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier.** "Our statewide prosecutors will ensure that this predator is held accountable for his abhorrent behavior."

The investigation was launched by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in August 2025 based on tips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. On Thursday, September 11, the Green Cove Springs Police Department executed a search warrant at Sedlock's residence. Investigators located his electronic devices, which contained both sexual abuse material involving young children and animals.

Sedlock is currently being held in the Clay County Jail on a \$600,000 bond; he is not permitted to have access to devices with internet capabilities or contact with any person under the age of 18.

**Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces 230 Arrests in Human Trafficking Operation**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that 230 suspects will be charged for involvement in illegal acts related to soliciting prostitutes, offering to commit prostitution, or transporting prostitutes. During this investigation, twelve possible human trafficking victims were identified and immediately offered support.

"Human traffickers are vile predators who exploit the vulnerable, and once again, a disproportionate number of those arrested in this sting were illegal aliens," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier.** "Here in Florida, we will not give these traffickers the opportunity to destroy more lives."

"The online prostitution industry enables and empowers human traffickers, allowing them to profit off the people they exploit," said **Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd.** "Our goal is to identify victims, offer them help, and arrest those who are fueling the exploitation of human beings (Johns) and those profiting from the exploitation of

human beings. Prostitution is not a victimless crime – it results in human exploitation, misery, disease, dysfunction, drug and alcohol addiction, violence, and broken families."

This operation was a joint effort led by the Polk County Sheriff's office in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Division, the Florida Department of Financial Services, Auburndale PD, Bartow PD, Davenport PD, Haines City PD, Lake Wales PD, Winter Haven PD, Zephyrhills PD, Highlands County Sheriff's Office, State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit Brian Haas, and Attorney General Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution.

This investigation involved a seven-day sting operation in which law enforcement utilized social media and escort-hiring platforms to make contact with the defendants. The vast majority of the defendants are repeat offenders, with a combined total of 296 felonies and 348 misdemeanors in the suspects' prior criminal histories.

The defendants include 46 illegal immigrants from Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Cuba, Brazil, Colombia, and the Bahamas, five of whom reported that they are currently receiving financial assistance from the U.S. government.

The defendants will be charged as follows:

- **111** with felony traveling to commit prostitution
- **20** with felony aiding/abetting, transporting, or deriving proceeds from prostitutes
- **99** with misdemeanor soliciting prostitution

These cases will be prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution and State Attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit Brian Haas.

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



**Governor Ron DeSantis Celebrates Constitution Day By Unveiling Benjamin Franklin Statue in Franklin County as Florida Commemorates America250**

**APALACHICOLA, Fla.**—

Governor Ron DeSantis celebrated the 238<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution by unveiling a new statue of Benjamin Franklin in Franklin County, Florida—honoring one of America's most influential founding fathers. This statue is the latest feature in Florida's America250 commemorations.

"Benjamin Franklin was an American original," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We as Americans are fortunate to have had a man like Franklin playing such a big role in the founding of our nation. As we prepare to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary next July, we must remember the vision, courage, and unyielding quest for liberty that inspired our founders. Statues like this symbolize our firm resolve to uphold the Constitution, to honor the legacy of our founders, and to embody the values of our nation's founding."

"It is a privilege to stand in Franklin County on Constitution Day as we honor Benjamin Franklin—a man whose wisdom, courage, and vision still shape America nearly 250 years after our founding," said Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins. "Here in Florida, we take pride in our constitutional legacy, rooted in independence and self-determination. Franklin's life reminds us that freedom is not inherited by chance but secured through civic responsibility and service. While some may seek to erase history, Florida chooses to honor it, ensuring future generations know both their rights and their duty to preserve our republic."

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, Hamilton, Madison, and Monroe Counties over the next year. A statue of Thomas Jefferson was unveiled in Jefferson County earlier this year.

Governor DeSantis underscored Benjamin Franklin's legacy as the quintessential American who embodied the spirit of American ingenuity. The Governor also emphasized Franklin's commitment to civic duty and his belief that an engaged and educated citizenry is the cornerstone of liberty in our republican system of government.

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 nearly \$60 million in teacher stipends to recognize their commitment to fostering civic literacy.

This year, 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.

Florida's yearlong commemoration of America's semiquincentennial birthday celebration is ongoing. For more information about events or opportunities in Florida, visit [America250FL.com](http://America250FL.com).

**Florida Ranks #1 for Attracting and Developing a Skilled Workforce for Third Consecutive Year**

Florida is also home to seven of ten top scoring Large Metropolitan

Statistical Areas in the nation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Lightcast released the 2024 Talent Attraction Scorecard, ranking Florida as the number one state for attracting and developing a skilled workforce for the third consecutive year. Florida is also home to seven of the ten top scoring Large Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and four of the top ten scoring Mid-Sized MSAs in the nation. The Talent Attraction Scorecard evaluates states based on job growth, education attainment, regional competitiveness and migration data.

"Florida set an ambitious goal to be number one in workforce education by 2030—and we continue to march towards this achievement," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We're not just preparing for the future—we're ahead of schedule, building a workforce ready for high-demand, high-wage careers today."

In the Lightcast Talent Attraction Scorecard, Florida also earned high rankings in multiple categories including:

- #1 for overall job growth;
- #1 for competitive effect;
- #2 for skilled job growth; and
- #3 for high-earning job growth.

Florida has seven of the ten top scoring Large MSAs in the nation with Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach ranked #3, Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford ranked #4, Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin ranked #5, North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota ranked #7, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater ranked #8, Lakeland-Winter Haven ranked #9 and Naples-Marco Island ranked #10. Florida also has four of the ten top scoring Mid-Sized MSAs with Wildwood-The Villages ranked #1, Panama City-Panama City Beach ranked #4, Punta Gorda ranked #5 and Sebastian-Vero Beach-West Vero Corridor ranked #9.

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, we're creating opportunities for both job seekers and job creators through a strong focus on education and workforce training," said Florida Secretary of Commerce, J. Alex Kelly. "Florida continues to lead the nation with an economy where workforce and talent development are a priority to our success as we continue to build a future full of opportunity for anyone ready to grow and succeed here in the Free State of Florida."

"For the third year in a row, Florida has earned the top spot for attracting and developing a skilled workforce. This consistent Number 1 ranking is proof that

our talent pipeline is delivering results," said Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas. "We're committed to keeping this momentum going so Floridians are prepared for high-value careers and businesses have the talent they need to thrive."

"Florida is a national leader because of intentional collaboration between the state's business leaders and university faculty shaping curriculum," said State University System Chancellor Ray Rodrigues. "The State University System of Florida's 2030 Strategic Plan highlights the importance of university presidents working with industry leaders, attracting top-tier faculty, and preparing students for successful careers. Thanks to Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature's recent investment of \$200M to recruit and retain world-class faculty, Florida can remain #1. The Lightcast rankings demonstrate our steadfast commitment to emphasizing degrees that propel students forward and align with Florida's workforce needs."

"Florida's top ranking in talent attraction and development for the third year in a row is a testament to our strategic investments in workforce education and our commitment to preparing Floridians for the jobs of tomorrow," said Adrienne Johnston, CareerSource Florida President and CEO. "At CareerSource Florida, we're proud to help lead the charge in building a resilient, future-ready workforce that powers our state's continued economic success."

Additionally, Florida ranked number six for education attainment, which is a significant leap forward for Florida since the beginning of this administration. This is a direct result of Governor DeSantis' commitment to aligning workforce education programs with employers' needs in Florida through strategic investments and a focus on building a skilled workforce that meets demand.

Since Governor DeSantis took office, he

has prioritized investments in workforce education, business development and strong infrastructure. These record investments have helped establish a strong skilled workforce pipeline and have continued to attract new businesses to the state. Florida leads the nation in new business formations with 3.8 million new businesses formed since 2019 and already more than 360,700 new businesses formed in 2025.

In Governor DeSantis' Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget, Governor DeSantis allocated \$726.9 million to support workforce education programs and prepare students for high-demand, high-wage jobs. Additionally, since 2019, more than \$291 million has been awarded through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to promote public infrastructure and workforce training across the state creating more than 30,000 workforce education opportunities and more than 40,000 new jobs.

**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/>

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## Arrests in Organized Fraud Ring

**Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Arrests in Organized Fraud Ring, Crackdown on Repeat Offenders**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that the Office of Statewide Prosecution has charged six defendants with engaging in a multi-year scheme to commit large-scale theft and identity fraud across at least five counties in Florida.

“The broader issue at hand here is that repeat offenders pose a major threat to the safety of our communities,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “Too often, these criminals are arrested, released, and given another chance to prey on innocent people. In Florida, we don’t just arrest criminals—we keep them behind bars where they belong.”

“The Office of Statewide Prosecution will deploy every tool to dismantle criminal networks made up of career fraudsters and thieves that prey on hardworking Floridians,” said Statewide Prosecutor Brad McVay. “The Office will pursue hefty and enhanced charges to ensure individuals convicted of operating as part of one of these organized crime rings are kept behind bars for a very long time, where they can no longer victimize Floridians.”

The defendants are connected to the “Felony Lane Gang,” a Fort Lauderdale-based theft enterprise that operates across the state. Between March 2021 and May 2023, they carried out over 200 smash-and-grab burglaries at gyms, parks, and other

public spaces. Their targets were wallets and purses containing checkbooks, credit cards, IDs, and even passports. The defendants were then using the stolen personal identification information to commit fraud by cashing forged checks and fraudulently withdrawing money from bank accounts.

During the span of the scheme, the defendants stole over \$385,000 from the victims, including 55 senior citizens.

Each of these charges carry a maximum sentence of 30 years, along with a fine of up to \$10,000. This case will be handled by Attorney General Uthmeier’s Office of Statewide Prosecution.

## Everglades Restoration

**Governor Ron DeSantis Celebrates Continued Everglades Restoration Projects**

This project is the first to break ground under Florida’s new Everglades restoration acceleration agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla.**—Governor Ron DeSantis marked the official groundbreaking of the Blue Shanty Flow Way project, an important milestone in Everglades restoration which will ensure that more water flows from the to-be-completed EAA Reservoir south into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay.

“We are acting on our historic agreement with the Trump Administration to expedite Everglades restoration using federal funds

and state expertise,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Today’s groundbreaking on the Blue Shanty Flow Way project in Miami-Dade County is a milestone in our Everglades restoration efforts, building on our many previous conservation actions.”

This marks the first event since the State of Florida and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a [new landmark agreement](#) on July 18, 2025, to accelerate the restoration of America’s Everglades. Under the new agreement, the State of Florida assumed responsibility for the Blue Shanty Flow Way and anticipates that it will be done about two years faster than planned.

The Blue Shanty Flow Way is the final project to “uncork” Tamiami Trail that was planned as part of the Central Everglades Planning Project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

The Central Everglades Planning Project will deliver an average of 370,000 acre-feet of additional water each year from Lake Okeechobee to the Central Everglades – an essential step in restoring the River of Grass. It includes 8.5 miles of a new Blue Shanty Levee and the removal of older levees to allow water to move naturally.

The benefits of the Blue Shanty Flow Way include:

- Restoration of a more natural and historic flow of clean water south.

- Improved habitat for fish, birds, and other Everglades wildlife.

- Support for outdoor recreation and ecotourism.

- Strengthening of the connection between the Central Everglades and Florida Bay.

“With every project, from reservoirs to flow ways, we are delivering real results on time, under budget and with strong returns for Florida’s taxpayers,” said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. “Alongside our federal partners, state leadership and communities, we will continue driving restoration projects forward.”

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has made restoring the Everglades and improving water quality a cornerstone of his administration. On his second day in office, he issued Executive Order 19-12, which committed \$2.5 billion over four years for water quality and Everglades projects. That goal was exceeded in his first term, with \$3.3 billion invested—more than the previous 12 years combined.

In his second term, Governor DeSantis has continued this momentum. With \$1.4 billion included in this year’s FY 2025-26 Budget, the state has now committed \$4.6 billion in the first three years of the term, putting Florida on pace to exceed his \$3.5 billion second-term goal. Altogether, nearly \$8 billion has been invested since 2019 in Everglades restoration and water quality.

## War Against Evil

Last month I wrote Good or Evil? There is no question in my mind “WE ARE IN A WAR AGAINST EVIL!” Just stand back fellow citizens of America and look at what is going on. A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED EVIL WAR! Politicians would rather give up children to destroy their enemy. What I thought use to be up standing citizens have lost their common sense and their reasoning power. They are letting hatred make decisions. Children are dyeing for no sane reason. We are turning our society into victims because of Hatred. Our family and friends are dealing with evil

every day. We are letting mental illness go untreated. What is causing this? Look what parents are letting social bullying do! They are confusing the young into losing their gender Identity. Half of the human race is changing into monsters that kill for no reason.

Our previous administration let millions of criminals cross into our country unchecked. It was a planned attack on our country by our enemies. Their thought was to make them voting citizens. Trump and his Team stopped that so far, but they are using the population count to redistricting their state.

The youths are committing suicide, adults are at fault. Why do they want their child to change their Identity or why do they let them change their gender and doctor that preforms these procedures, operations and hormone injections are sick! I guess they are doing it for the money. Maybe they are the enemy! There is some parallel it seems that gender changing could cause mental illness.

The people mostly the young who realize they can’t change back so then hate takes over, they go into a revenge mode. The Church, their mother, father, school, society! If congress could pass a bill to create a trained law enforcement group to protect the people, administer justice and help people who have mental challenges might be the answer. Right now a lot of parents failed to raise their children and the children turn to the dark side. The parents should warn someone that their child has serious problems. Then they can go in for treatments rather than killing other children, themselves or causing problems that hurt others.

EVIL is here to stay so we must suppress it. See something say something even if it is your family member. Then Law enforcement needs tools to deal with it to help the challenged person before they commit personal harm, now instead of children dyeing.

The other thing that they fail to understand that gang are started by friends standing up for friends that are being bullied, mostly in school or in crowded environments. They stand in numbers against the threat of those who want to hurt them. They then grow as a group (gang?) then the gang gets to doing things that is on the edge of illegal. It starts out small then grows to large crimes.

A local boy was approached by a gang member. He said my brother is head of the largest gang in Chicago and I want you to join my gang. The boy answered do you know my father? No, would you like to meet him? Because if I join your gang and he finds out “You will me him!” They left him alone. His father had a talk with him and told him how to handle it! His father explained we are at war against Evil!

Teachers should be trained to identify and to help control what is happening pre-gang activity. They are recruiting little children 8 years old. Let’s get them off the streets and keep them off the streets.

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