



Florida Horse Park

Rider from all over compete at the Florida Horse Park. This picture was taken by CK Johnson. She is seen around the horse Park frequently. The park hosting horse shows, polo matches, trail rides,

and an array of special events. Public restroom · Dogs allowed 11008 S Hwy 475, Ocala, FL 34480

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Reflections from the Past

By TomL

I received a call one day that a veteran just outside the Villages Sumter County side needed help. Apparently this veteran managed to buy a new mobile home. The mobile home company set up the mobile home put a regular pair of stairs in the front and left. The veteran was in a wheel chair. Someone got him in the home but he had no way to get out. I was ask to help because I had run into this problem before. I called the mobile home company and they refused without the vet paying money. I called a guy I met that helped Veterans and they went to the church and got a volunteer group together. We got the lumber company to donate four sheets of plywood and some 2 by 4's and they went to work. It was a smart the way to make the ramp 3 sheets of plywood long 24 ft ramp and the top deck was the fourth sheet of plywood. The Veteran was happy he could get in and out

without any trouble. Here comes code enforcement, the volunteers did everything wrong and was not being very co-opertive. I told the volunteers to go to the next Board meeting which I attended with my camera, it was not long the approval came through. It seems as though there was just a couple of minor adjustments and the Veteran was good to go.

One day a veteran showed up at a Business club I belong to and he was needing help. He wanted to hold a fund raiser for a veteran friend who widow was in bad need. I ran free ads to help and some money was raised. Then one day I got a call from a person that was raising cane with me because I ran ads for the Veteran that wanted to help someone else. The lady said she wanted me to print a retraction and write a story about this Veteran did not have a permit! "I said MAM I will not run a retraction, I was trying to help a Veteran, Is this your attempt to help or

Continued page 3

Thank You for Your Service



The Ocala-Marion County Veterans Memorial Park serves as a place of honor for our service men & women. Events are hosted at the park throughout the year including Quarterly Memorials, Memorial Day, & Veterans Day to name a few. Memorial bricks & benches are available

to commemorate one's service to our great nation. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Please contact [Marion County Veterans Services](http://MarionCountyVeteransServices.com) at 352-671-8422 to purchase a brick or bench, or to volunteer.

Help Rebuild RNC

By TomL

This a disclaimer that this is what I think happened, not anyone else's Ideas.

What should Marion County do next? It needs to rebuild and strengthen the Republican National Committee. I noticed that politically we are being skipped by, by many leaders in our state. I noticed that the Governor gave money out to county (Small) town's but skipped Marion County and by the way I told him about it, if my email ever got through. The Republican Party got split in half some year's back in Marion County and has not pulled back together YET! Let me tell you a story, I will leave out some names because to some the story still hurts. By the way the sheriff of today had nothing to do with all this, it was before his time..

Some years back the Sheriff was training his replacement so when he retired his second in command could just step in and take over. It was not that easy, he had to win an election! But to make a long story short he ran and won the election. Before he could be sworn in a scandal hit and he was no longer eligible to be Sheriff.

The whole county was in shocked and mad but what do they do about the sheriff job? The sheriff coming in second was being considered. The powers in the Republican Party were split. The Power broker were

fighting to get their guy in and the other side Power Brokers were really mad! One faction agreed to make the runner up be sheriff and the other half did not. Right then "in my opinion" the Republican Party split!

Of course the unhappy side went after the new sheriff with a vengeance and finally had him taken out of office for something he did not do. I had pictures proving that he was innocent of what the courts claimed.

The incident: A drug dealer was in a house with a gun shooting at the Sheriff department. I think he was holding a woman

Continued page 3



CEP CHAMBER NEWS



A New Adventure—
And A New Home

By Matt McCormick

It is a true honor to join the Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership as your new president and CEO. During my visits to Ocala and my conversations with members of this remarkable community, one thing has become abundantly clear—this is a place defined by excitement, growth, energy, and collaboration. My family and I are beyond thrilled to make Ocala our new home.

The CEP's mission is to be “the catalyst for a prosperous community.” At its core, our work is about helping businesses do business—and thrive—in a vibrant, growing region. We are also a “convener of collaboration,” because economic development never happens in isolation. It takes partnerships among business, government, education, and the broader community, all working toward shared success.

The CEP has a proud history of supporting businesses, driving growth initiatives, and serving as a strong advocate for this region. I'm eager to build on that legacy while staying partner-focused and mission-driven. Over the coming months, my focus will be on listening and learning—hearing directly from you about what matters most. What challenges are you facing? What opportunities excite you? And how can the CEP be a part of helping you achieve success?

The hospitality we've already received has been truly humbling. So many people have reached out to welcome us, and we are deeply grateful. Many have also asked about my background and our family, so I'd love to share a little about us.

I've worked in the chamber and economic development field for more than 27 years, beginning in membership sales for a chamber in East Texas shortly after college. I quickly fell in love with the purpose behind this work—building stronger communities through business. Since then, I've served in leadership roles with chambers in Texas, Missouri, and now Florida. For the past 12 years, I've had the privilege of leading the Columbia, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce, where I worked in areas such as economic and workforce development, infrastructure and transportation, business

Continued page 3

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CEP Continued from page 2
advocacy, and community partnerships.
I'm blessed with a wonderful family (and yes, I might be a little biased). My wife of 28 years is a speech-language pathologist with a passion for helping others. Our daughter is a high-school freshman who loves theater, singing, running track, golf, and spending time with friends. Our son is a sophomore at Valparaiso University, studying business marketing and competing as a student-athlete on the swim team. We enjoy being outdoors, boating and having new adventures.
We look forward to meeting everyone

Rebuild RNC
Continued from page 1

hostige. It was a stand off for hours, there were news camera's there, finally with a flash bang procedure two deputies rush in and was attempting to take control of the shooter. He was hopped up on drugs and fighting was on, the officers were trying to take him into custody, it was not pretty! This went on until another officer got in and assisted in the arrest. They all looked like they had been in a real fight. They got him under control and in custody. They took him out to the emergency rescue truck that was on scene, they walked behind the Sheriff. The sheriff was making a statement in front of a camera. I had pictures of that. They brought the drug dealer out alive! While in court the drug dealers lawyer ask the Sheriff why he did not say anything about the condition of his client (The Drug Dealer) and why he did not reprimand the deputy's that brought him out in rough shape. They claim unnecessary roughness. The sheriff answering under oath that he did not see the client until later that day after the incident was over. They had walked behind him while he was on camera. They charged the sheriff for lying under oath???? They found him guilty. Pam Bondi sent her representative to make him step down and the Attorney Generals office representative

took charge of the Marion County Sheriff department. The state later dropped the charged without any statement!
One of the big TV stations was at the Marion County Sheriff Office was there making a statement. I ask on TV. How were they going to recover when they realized the Sheriff was not guilty??? They cut my statement out on the broadcast that night. So the Republican Party won and lost. They were split bad and still are.
That is why I think Marion County Republican Party needs to be rebuilt! I fought like hell with my papers but I was ignored, I ran proof on my front page and got rave reviews but nothing happened. Now Brigitte Smith and her team is working to building the Republican National Committee and probably does not even know this story but she will now.
We use to have 500 republicans at a sit down lunch at the Hilton and invite national and state speakers. Marco Rubio, Pam Bondi and many others. Now there is a group at the RNC trying to put it together after all these years later. I remember business people dressed to the Tee socializing and talking business. We need to bring that back! Help Brigitte Smith and her team with her efforts.
Life is not always fair and some people with different visions and come to different conclusions. Let's move forward and not live in the past!
Help Briggtte and the RNC team build a Bigger than ever Republican National Committee here in Ocala Florida.
PS Cat Hammock has put an office here in Ocala. Thank you Cat!
tloury@att.net

Reflections
Continued from page 1
harm?" I got reports about people in the club that got phone calls from her but I believe she got shut down. I will check for permits before run ads, until I see the permit but I did not say I won't help, I will help veteran's always! We have help many people and will

continue!
I never got to go into the military. I went for my fiscal the day my younger brother ship out. Where most people have four places where your back bends I only have three and it put a strain on my sciatic nerve. They would not let me go! Something else happened that day. Not only did my brother leave but there was a guy there that was in the examining room to take a fiscal and a test. He refused! He said if he did not take the test they could not make him go! "WRONG" He was sitting in a school desk. Two very large MP's walked in pickup up the desk he was in with him in it and loaded him on the bus that was leaving. The Doctor told us to walk to the widow and wave good bye because they had him sit in the window where we could see him and he could see us! He was wrong. "HE WENT that day" without a fiscal. I'm sure he got one later.
I was happy when the war was over and my brother got muster out. I lost a lot of Class mates in Vietnam! I praise them the same as I praise any other veteran. Some died for our freedom. My brother was in Alaska and loved it! So he stayed there a while but would come home after our parents started having medical problems. Some time later mom passed away we were all there all there. My sister and I were in the doorway of the room when mom passed and at the same time a warn breeze came out of the room. We both felt it. Dad went on to being a wild man (just kidding). He sold his business and lived for some time. Dad had an. Insurance company across from the Hi-Li Fronton Dania Beach Fl.
MY GOALS for the year is to help where I can, take care of wife and try to get her healthy again!

Building Businesses Through Relationships
Dunnellon use to be my wooded quiet Oasis, not any more on Sundays once or twice a month I can hear auto magic weapons going off while people are

practicing with their gun. Probably illegal gun. Abandon railroad bed not track no rail road ties just the rail road bed. People thin it's OK to shoot into the bank of dirt. Most of those people don't have any gun safety classes.
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Tom Loury *Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders and current member, Co-Founder and past President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber and current member. If you want to make contact with the newspaper / Tom Loury email toury@att.net*

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



By TomL

In October we took a half a day to split wood. Enough to keep us in firewood for a while. We had our first fire in the fire place on Oct 31. It really felt good, I have a relaxing feeling come over me

when there is a fire in the fire place. I sat there thinking here we go into winter. I am glad we made it this far, I have had a lot of friends fall along the wayside in the last two years. Dave Noel was my most hurtful one this year, so far. I lost three out of my Business Club in recent years. Anyway this is the time to be thankful. Christmas is coming and I have not done any shopping, our grand children have all the biggest toys there is already. The boys on the farm have their own horses. The other Grandchildren are easier to buy for. Of course in our business world charities are coming out of

the woods. There is a lot of needy children out there this Christmas. Try to help!

Going into next year very soon I will say I have laid my trust in the right people this year. The two I always have to mention is Nick Navetta with (Edward Jones) and Christine Calvert Healthcare Insurance Specialist. I Trust these two completely. They have proven records in my book and It is hard to earn that position with me! I do business with people NOT businesses, if you trust someone it is easy to do business.

Let's talk about AI! I receive a magazine every month from ACP called Publish and they have some the best writers. One of the publishers said and I quote AI will allow college students to cheat on their home work. My question is what will they learn. In the same magazine a Gen Z wrote the problem with AI is it will tell you untruths and then with its intellect it will convince you it is true. You know how many people believe a headline without reading the story. The headline is to get you attention so you

read the story!

This thing about education and the learning percentage is down in math. This is one of the thing that drive me crazy. They lump Algebra into math. That is where they lose a lot of children. I was talking to several children in my circle of life and that is their big problem. There parents are both working some don't understand algebra so then I ask 20 people at a baseball game where there were parents of children in the same grand stand. Ten answered my question. How many of you have used Algebra in your work place or in your life. One said he used it and he was a pilot. So I conclude why are we forcing children to learn something they will never use in their life. If you take Algebra out of the equation what would it do to the percentage. How about just teaching simple math and as the education goes into the next year make the problems harder but using simple math? Let's keep it simple stupid! If the student wants to go into college education then add Algebra!

In the beginning of 2025 January issue I wrote about Biden calling us trash .. Well I said Trump will be throwing out the trash and was not us the conservative Republicans. It was TURNCOATS, LIARS, people committing TREASON! Criminal PROSECUTOR'S! TRAITORS! Politicians committing VOTER FRAUD! Getting paid

PAY FOR PLAY! Money FOR FAVORS! The president invited Elon into create DOGE Exposing many illegally funds and money misused in other country's! It goes on for ever. (Thank You Elon!) Dealing with COVID! Unveiling the money spent by Obama / Biden and Doctor Falchi. We paid for a lot for the study in China that killed millions of our people. No one has gone to jail, it should be the death penalty because that is what happened to millions of our unsuspecting American people.

Last December I wrote: I'M FIRED UP! Trump will be throwing out the garbage. Biden started by calling us garbage, but Trump will finish it. Biden / Harris have a lot of blood on their hands. People are dieing and more are going to die! Most of what Biden / Harris did was illegal! Bodies were found in the Rio Grand daily! They invited them to do something against our constitution of our United States in hopes they could make them voters. It did not work! The people drowned because of greed, power, and stupidity.

WHO IS IN FEMA? Who is in charge of FEMA? FEMA's Job description is... They are the nation's emergency management agency, and their mission is to help people before, during and after disasters. We trusted them with our tax money to help with disasters. How much money does FEMA get

Continued page 5

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

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Noon, December 23rd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 26th

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God Bless our Troops
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CHAIR CHAT

BY BRIGGITTE SMITH

Dear Friend,

We are delighted to share an in-depth look into the Marion County Republican Executive Committee (MCREC) – your local Republican Party, powered by your neighbors and dedicated to upholding the principles that strengthen our community, state, and nation. The MCREC is a vibrant grassroots organization, a cornerstone of the Republican Party in Florida, committed to shaping a brighter future through principled leadership and active civic engagement.

At its heart, the MCREC is composed of everyday citizens – your friends, family, and neighbors – who are united by a common set of core beliefs and values. We firmly believe in:

- Protecting Constitutional Freedoms:** Upholding the fundamental rights endowed to every American, from the sacred right to bear arms to ensuring a limited government that respects individual liberties.

- Securing Our Elections:** Championing the integrity of our democratic process by advocating for robust measures that ensure only eligible U.S. citizens cast votes, strengthening public trust in our electoral system.

- Empowering Responsible Energy Solutions:** Promoting energy independence and economic prosperity through the strategic and responsible expansion of America's abundant natural resources, including oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power.

- Defending Life and Faith-Based Values:** Standing unequivocally for the protection of the unborn and advocating for policies that reflect and honor our community's deeply held faith-based principles.

- Upholding Lawful Immigration:** Advocating for secure borders and a just, orderly immigration system rooted in the rule of law, ensuring the safety and sovereignty of our nation.

- Championing Medical Freedom:** Protecting individual autonomy in healthcare decisions, opposing government mandates, and ensuring patients have the

right to choose their treatments and vaccinations without coercion.

****The Power of Grassroots Action: Your MCREC Members****

Our strength lies in our Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen – dedicated volunteers who serve as the direct link between our party and your neighborhood. These are party-elected officials who embody the spirit of community service, working tirelessly to represent Republican values at the most local level. They are the backbone of our efforts, actively engaged in:

- Electing Republican Leaders:** From local municipal races to state and federal elections, our members are on the front lines, canvassing neighborhoods, organizing fundraisers, and providing essential support to elect officials who share our vision.

- Maximizing Voter Turnout:** Spearheading "Get Out the Vote" initiatives to ensure every eligible Republican voice is heard on Election Day.

- Active Participation:** Attending monthly meetings, representing the Republican Party at various local and state events, and fostering a strong, connected network of like-minded individuals.

- Committee Engagement:** Contributing their time and expertise to vital committee activities, including:

- Recruiting New Members:** Expanding our reach and inviting more citizens to join our mission.

- Providing Feedback:** Offering valuable insights and comments on pending state, county, and school board actions and legislation, ensuring local voices are amplified.

- Strategic Decision-Making:** Voting on MCREC Board members and crucial party actions, directly influencing our direction.

- Direct Advocacy:** Meeting with and advocating to local and state officials, ensuring the MCREC provides an effective platform for "Your Voice" to be heard on key issues.

We are building a legacy, a sustainable future for Marion County, our beloved State of Florida, and our great Nation. Your involvement is crucial to this endeavor.

****MCREC's Impact in Action: Legislative and Election Achievements****

The MCREC's dedication translates into

tangible results, influencing policy and protecting our community's interests. While each achievement offers a unique perspective for those seeking to understand our value, here are some key areas where the MCREC has made a significant difference:

- Baby Boxes Legislation:** We successfully advocated for legislation that provides a compassionate and realistic alternative to abortion, offering a safe haven for newborns and supporting maternal choice.

- Advancing Medical Freedom:** Our sustained efforts have strengthened patient

Continued page 6

Publisher's Notes

Continued from page 4

each year?

I'm STILL FIRED UP! Compared to the federal revenue of \$4.44 trillion for the same period last year (Oct 2022 - Sep 2023) federal revenue has increased by \$479 billion. A lot of this money has gone to feed, house, and what ever for the illegal immigrant's. THAT IS ILLEGAL! I have been so fired up about everything that was said and done that I have to write this. First can you imagine FEMA skipping Trump supporters. How far back have they been doing this? Trump mentioned it when someone complained about it after losing everything they had. FEMA claimed it was a lie! These people are victims! They have paid taxes that FEMA uses to help victims (THEM). Somebody needs to go to jail. Don't just fire them "It's jail time". Agencies using tax money and weaponizing by skipping anyone because of politics, OH MYGOSH!!! They offered no help during the flood and the deaths in the Carolina's and neighboring states. I got a taste of FEMA years ago when a tornado went through Lady Lake and destroyed the Church. Some people lost everything they owned. So the community donated some really nice warm jackets because it would be getting cold soon. Who manages these people? FEMA DOES! I show up at a FEMA tent! Where people who lost everything could maybe get some clothes. I thought I would tell the story

about how great FEMA was, maybe take a picture, run it in my newspaper. There were people in the tent trying on several nice expensive leather jackets, I approach them and ask "did you have tornado damage?" They replied no we are from Tampa, we visit FEMA tent to get free clothes. I went to the lady in charge of the tent and told her, she would not approach them. Who ever is put in charge of free services should ask for an ID to prove they are from the affected area! I know they probably needed clothes but intent was to help the people and family's suffering from the Tornado. The tornado wiped out the whole church and many homes killed some family's and people are traveling miles to get free clothes that are meant for tornado victims!

Things are looking up instead of me being Fired Up! I believe we are on the right track. Our track wiggles side to side because the Democrats are obstructing us but now they have to worry about the COMMUNIST taking over their party! How dum are some of those...

FIRED UP! I was in the tag office Dunnellon FL. Waiting for fifty people a head of me and we get just about to step up to the window, mind you my wife is having a bad time walking. This guy tapes me on the shoulder and says ...You would not mind if I step ahead of you and drop my information off. I looked at him in disbelief, I said are you kidding me? I said you should be ashamed of yourself for asking me. You can see my wife is having a hard time standing. Still he pressed I said "HELL NO!" Sorry and we went up to the window,. I said make it quick this guy behind mw=e is in. A big hurry, she said now now and went on to ask for all our information. You don't just drop something off there you have to prove who you are then do business. SOME PEOPLE!

News Flash: Our government found 186,000. dead people are receiving benefits???

My goal this year is to help where I can, shared information from the Fed Gov. State Gov. Local Gov and Local people and stand my ground!

Your Opinion is important to me
tloury@att.net short letter with initials only!

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Chair Chat

Continued from page 5

rights, leading to ongoing progress in opposing mandatory vaccination and safeguarding individual autonomy in healthcare decisions.

- **Protecting the Unborn:**** We led local opposition to defeat proposed state constitutional changes that would have drastically increased abortion access and funding. Additionally, we actively supported legislation to decouple Florida from any potentially overreaching World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic requirements, prioritizing state sovereignty and individual liberties.

- **Insurance and Tort Reform:**** We've tirelessly advocated for crucial reforms aimed at reducing frivolous litigation, thereby working to stabilize and reopen Florida's insurance market. While incremental changes have been made, this remains a critical work in progress.

- **Preserving Our Heritage:**** The MCREC has actively opposed legislation that threatened the preservation of our vital farmlands and the character of our cherished rural neighborhoods.

- **Direct Legislative Influence:**** Our members have provided impactful oral testimony to Senate and House Committees in Tallahassee on critical bills, frequently gaining support and influencing beneficial changes.

- **Strategic Advocacy:**** We maintain consistent engagement and meetings with State Senators and Representatives to advocate for issues specific to Marion County, ensuring our local concerns are addressed at the state level.

- **Election Integrity Enhancements:**** The MCREC championed legislation for improved county voter rolls and enhanced ballot box security, including more rigorous ID verification, to ensure fair and transparent elections.

- **Leadership in Advocacy:**** Our MCREC is widely recognized as a leader among county RECs for coordinating legislative advocacy letters, amplifying our collective voice across the state.

- **Local Governance Impact:**** We are deeply involved in local activities, engaging with the County Commission and School Board on crucial issues.

- **Fair Impact Fees:**** We successfully advocated for the fair reinstatement of transportation and school impact fees, a measure designed to alleviate taxpayer burdens and ensure responsible growth.

We invite you to learn more and become an active participant in these vital efforts.

MarionCountyRec.com

My Christmas Story

By TomL

This is a true story. When I was a little boy we were being raised Dania Beach Florida by my Grand Mother while our parents worked out of town at the Boca Raton Hotel. One day just before Christmas my friend and I were playing near

the Railroad tracks. We were bare footed. I jump off a little hill and landed on a broken beer bottle. It cut my heel pretty bad. I could see everything inside, my tendon was almost severed. The other boy piggy back me to the road and ran to the Fire Chiefs

house. Luckily the Fire Chiefs home was close by. He

wrapped my ankle, there was a lot of blood. He picked me up, put me in his truck and took me to my house where my grandmother was. They could tell they could not fix the wound. So the fire Chief took me to a clinic in the next town Hollywood. If the tendon was almost severed back in them days if it was severed you were crippled. They managed to get clamps on my tendon and pull it back into place and staple it. My parents were called. They picked me up at the clinic and I was told I would not be able to start walking for at least two months.

Christmas school brake was a few days away. Christmas was a big thing to me. It was not because of the gifts but the fact that I would see Santa Claus. After all I only saw him once a year. Every year there was a Christmas parade. That night I was very sad because I could not go, I could not walk. Grandma told my sister she could take my brother and walk two block to where the

parade would come down US 1. Grandma could not walk very far. I was sitting next the slide up window listening for the firetruck that carried Santa Claus in the parade, finally I could hear the siren and the horn on the firetruck. I sat there in the window almost crying because I would not see Santa. The sound of the siren was getting louder as they down the Hwy. Then it was getting louder and then louder and it came down our residential street. They stopped at my house and Santa got off the truck and brought me a candy cane. He gave me a hug and said Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas and walked out the

door got on the Firetruck and proceeded back to the why where he detoured off the hwy. I was beside myself, Santa came to see me.

It's funny that Santa looked kind of similar to the Fire Chief. I wondered until a few years later. Interesting fact was his son was drowning in whiskey creek and I jumped in and pull him out. He was knock out cold by a speed boat that came to close to where we were swimming.

Thats my TRUE Christmas story.

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ITEX is a company that operates a large barter network where businesses and individuals can trade products and services using ITEX dollars instead of cash, as detailed on Yahoo Finance and ITEX. It provides a marketplace for members to buy and sell and handles the record-keeping and transaction processing for this non-cash exchange, as shown on Prime Trade NW. This service helps businesses turn idle assets into new sales, according to ITEX

They offer : Barter network /

Business support / Membership / Transaction process (ITEX checks) to spend on many things, places and items.

Purpose is to help businesses and individuals leverage assets that would otherwise be idle (like spare inventory or empty seats) into a new revenue streams, reports ITEX.

• **ITEX is the largest marketplace for B2B cashless transactions in the USA and Canada.**

• ITEX processes millions in sales for thousands of member businesses everywhere!

Email Tom Loury at tloury@att.net

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FROM THE DESK OF

CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Cammack Cosponsors Resolution Honoring America's Veterans on Veterans Day 2025

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) joined Congressman

Michael Guest (MS-03) in introducing a bipartisan resolution honoring the service and sacrifice of America's veterans. The resolution commemorates the generations of men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, calling on all Americans to observe Veterans Day in recognition of their courage, sacrifice, and continued contributions to our nation. It also honors the families who share in that sacrifice and underscores the importance of ensuring veterans receive the care, benefits, and support they have rightfully earned.

"Every veteran has worn the uniform with pride, standing guard over our freedoms and defending the values that make America the greatest nation on earth," said Congresswoman Cammack. "As the wife of a first responder and someone who grew up in a military family, I'm deeply honored to cosponsor this resolution and say thank you—for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering love of country. Here in North Central Florida, thousands of veterans continue to serve their communities as business owners, first responders, and leaders. This resolution is a reminder that freedom endures because of their courage."

Background

On November 11, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first commemoration of Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I.

- On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a concurrent resolution officially recognizing the annual observance.
- On June 28, 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Holiday Bill, establishing Veterans Day as a federal holiday to honor all American servicemembers.
- Today, more than 15.8 million veterans live in the United States, with tens of thousands calling Florida's Third Congressional District home.

Congresswoman Cammack Votes to Release the Epstein Files

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) released the following statement after voting in favor of a petition to compel the Justice Department to release the remaining Jeffrey Epstein files, delivering long-overdue transparency and accountability:

"Going back to 2021, on multiple occasions, I have publicly called for the release of the Epstein files, so today's vote is momentous. Before today's vote, I sat down with survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell's heinous crimes to hear their stories. Their courage has been the game changer in helping get us one step closer to full transparency," said Congresswoman Cammack. "For years, these women have carried the burden of these atrocities while others tried to hide the truth. I am proud to have voted for full transparency because this is about standing with survivors, exposing the truth, and finally ending the decades of cover-ups that protected Epstein and his powerful allies."

Background:

The American people deserve to know the full truth, which is why House Republicans took decisive action to petition the Justice Department to release the files on Jeffrey Epstein. Transparency is long overdue, especially for the survivors who have waited years for accountability.

Although today's vote is a major victory for survivors, we cannot ignore the fact that Democrats have repeatedly worked to shield information and downplay their own involvement. For years, Democrat leaders have maintained political and financial ties to Epstein that they've refused to fully acknowledge. Del. Stacey Plaskett took \$30,000 in Epstein-linked contributions after his conviction. Additionally, she took direct instruction from Epstein during a Congressional hearing in an attempt to target President Trump. Former President Bill Clinton flew on Epstein's plane more than two dozen times and was reportedly seen on Epstein's island by both a victim and a former aide. High-profile figures aligned with the left—including Larry Summers, Katie Couric, and megadonor Reid Hoffman—continued associating with Epstein even after he served jail time. The DNC still refuses to return over \$30,000 in Epstein-connected donations. And reports have suggested that Democrat-aligned author Michael Wolff even encouraged Epstein to 'blackmail Donald Trump' during the 2016 election.

This pattern of evasion and deflection is unacceptable. The American people deserve full transparency.

Charlie Kirk is a Legend For Sure!

By TomL

WOW if you look on the internet there is a lot of positive and negative writings about Charlie Kirk. (My opinion) I think he brought a light to young people who have been almost brain washed by teachers, professors and social media.

There are many more patriotic teachers and professors than Anti-America teachers. Many years ago I wrote that I could not understand why we allow so many students from other countries to be educated here, when they graduate they go back and use their education to try to destroy us.

I think Charlie opened the door to help young people who were afraid to speak up and explained them selves about the teachings of Christianity.

He probably was not a perfect guy but he believed in what he was saying and good at it. I don't think he was a rouge, he was a bit like our president, but when Trump says he is going to do something he does it! If people out there don't believe him watch out the hammer of hell could befall upon you!

So how could we category Charlie Kirk. We don't want to lose the fact he was Martyred by a nobody. The shooter was a killer! He should not get mercy! I say the FIRING SQUAD! At the same place Charlie was executed.

Some very influential people called him the 13th Disciple? I don't think so we had St. Paul & Mary Magdalene before him in biblical days, but he is right up there with the great's!

The Pope said he is praying for Charlie Kirk, his wife and their children. He is concerned about the recent political violence.

I imagine it will be a general call for peace because "God is still in control!"

Some rioters are being paid by communist and Socialist billionaires that are trying to disrupt our way of life. Maybe we should pay the same disrupters to disrupt the Billionaire life. Mark Leven says if you go to another socialist Country you will see the difference. You don't have the choices that we have. Grocery stores have one kind of bread, rationing meats and vegetables. You don't own anything the Government owns everything.

In socialist Cuba if a neighborhood does something they don't like the government turns off the electricity to homes for a mile around. Cuba is being subsidized by Russia because of how close they are to us. We will have to deal with them someday.

So I think they should plan a tragedy to explain Charlie Kirk will be the leader of Turning Point for years to come instead of giving the power to each Chapter leader. It would be easier to control!

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Ocala Events

Year-round Activities

Creative Stitches

Tuesdays | Sept. 2 - Dec. 2 | 10 - 11:30 a.m. | Free

Learn to crochet step-by-step and create personalized items like blankets, scarves, or hats. Whether you're new or experienced, everyone's welcome to create with yarn. Some supplies are provided, but, if possible, please bring your own H hook.

Woodcarvers Social

Tuesdays | 1 - 3 p.m. | Free

Learn the hobby of woodcarving. Open to all levels from beginners wanting to learn the basics or experienced carvers to share ideas and socialize. Participants should bring their own tools, wood, and patterns.

Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave.

Footloose Line Dancing

Come join us for an hour of dancing fun. This class is for anyone who loves to dance, whether you are experienced, or new to the dance floor. You will learn the basic steps of many soul and line dances while getting a workout at the same time.

Tuesdays | 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | Free Program

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place | 1821 NW 21st Ave.

Footloose Intermediate Line dancing

Join us for an hour of intermediate line dancing led by local instructor Mitzi Berryan. This class is perfect for anyone who loves to dance and is already familiar with the basic steps.

Mondays | 5:30 - 7 PM Free

Barbara Gaskin Washington Adult Activity Center | 210 NW 12th Ave.

Forever Young Aerobics

Are you looking for a low-impact but effective workout class? Well, Forever Young Aerobics classes are for you. This class is designed for active adults who focus on aerobics conditioning, strengthening, and increased flexibility while grooving to some of your favorite classic tunes! All routines are performed in a chair for LOW IMPACT movement.

Session One: 10 -11 a.m., Session Two: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Year-Around | Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays | 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place | 1821 NW 21st Ave.

Green Thumb Garden

Join us for a hands-on opportunity to grow your own fresh produce! With eight standing garden plots available, participants can cultivate and maintain their own space while enjoying the benefits of gardening. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, this program is a great way to connect with others, stay active, and enjoy the joys of homegrown produce!

Barbara G. Washington Adult Activity Center | 210 NW 12th Ave.

Garden plots are available on a first come first serve basis for free. For more information call Grace at 352-401-6980

Mah Jong | Thursdays

Join us for a fun, weekly game of Mah Jong! All levels are welcome. Form your own table or meet new friends. Beginners encouraged!

Connect with your community



FAIRTax



William Ockham was a 14th century philosopher and is best known for the principle of

Occam's Razor which translates to "entities must not be multiplied beyond necessity".

To paraphrase "when a problem has more than one solution, the simplest, least complicated solution is preferred". So which solution would William Ockham prefer - the income tax or the FAIRtax?

At the risk of stating the obvious, HR 25 (the FAIRtax bill) is approximately 130 pages long. It replaces a system that has spawned over 80,000 pages of tax law, regulations and case law.

The FAIRtax was designed by a small team of economists working together to devise the best tax system possible. The Internal Revenue Code is a hopelessly complicated patchwork of competing and

conflicting provisions cobbled together by wrangling between the two political parties that has been going on since 1913.

The FAIRtax is a simple, fair, efficient and transparent retail consumption tax. It replaces the personal income tax, the corporate income tax, capital gains taxes, gift taxes, estate taxes and the horribly regressive federal payroll taxes.

The income tax requires that American taxpayers spend countless hours filling out complicated forms every year telling the government all the intimate details of their personal finances. The FAIRtax requires no paperwork at all from individuals.

The income tax is so complicated that when 50 professional tax preparers were given the exact same data for a typical American family, they came up with 49 different answers on what that family owed in taxes. The FAIRtax is so simple a fifth grader can understand it.

The income tax requires thousands of pages on how to fill out all the various IRS

tax forms. The FAIRtax has no forms and requires no instructions at all.

The income tax is riddled with a myriad of deductions, credits, adjustments, exemptions and loopholes so that two families with similar incomes can owe vastly different amounts of tax. The FAIRtax treats everyone the same.

No one pays the FAIRtax on their basic necessities. Beyond that, the more you spend on new goods and services, the more tax you pay.

When compared with the income tax, the FAIRtax delivers a resounding simple solution to our ongoing complex problem of an impossible tax code with annual illegal tax evasion of \$1 trillion. The FAIRtax is simply a better mechanism to collect our

nation's treasury receipts. I think it's quite clear that William Ockham would choose the FAIRtax over the income tax, wouldn't you? For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

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Love is just a leash away!!

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

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

How can you help?

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

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

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

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



Bilbie

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



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



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

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



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

FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL UTHMEIER



Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Arrests, Deportations in Child Exploitation Operation

S T U A R T , Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier today announced that Isaias Coy, David Desormeaux,

Miguel Angel, Antonio Rojas, Mohamed Mesregah, and Jeremiah Gillyard have been arrested on charges relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

"These predators believed that they could hide behind a screen to exploit our children—they were wrong," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier**. "Several of these defendants are now on ICE detainers and will face prison before deportation. We will never stop protecting kids in Florida; those who target them will be caught and punished."

"These men will soon come to realize that they traveled to the wrong county in the wrong circuit," said **Thomas Bakkedahl, State Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida**.

"This operation is a powerful example of what can be accomplished when local, state, and federal partners come together with one shared mission—to protect our children," said **Martin County Sheriff John Budensiek**. "These arrests should serve as a warning to anyone who thinks they can prey on children in our communities. We will find you, we will

arrest you, and we will hold you accountable."

"FDLE remains steadfast when it comes to protecting our innocent children from the dangerous predators lurking online. Working side by side with our state, local, and federal partners, we will continue to strengthen our efforts to safeguard every family and every child," said **FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass**. "Make no mistake, those who target or harm our children have no place in our communities. We will find them and bring them to justice."

This operation was a joint effort between Attorney General Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Martin County Sheriff's Office, Stuart Police Department, the U.S. Department of State, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Office of Thomas Bakkedahl, State Attorney for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida.

The undercover operation targeted predators who were sexually exploiting children online. The investigation involved undercover law enforcement officers posing as 14-year-old girls on an online escort website. Each of the defendants engaged in sexually explicit and harmful communications with the undercover officers despite being informed they were communicating with a 14-year-old. The defendants each continued to make plans to meet for sexual activity, and were all arrested upon arriving at the agreed upon meeting spot.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Grand Jury Indictment and Intent to Seek the Death Penalty in Child Sexual Battery Case

BROOKSVILLE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that a Hernando County grand jury indicted Nathan Douglas Holmberg, 36, on twenty-five counts, which include seven counts of capital sexual battery on a child under twelve, following an investigation by the Hernando County Sheriff, State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, and the Office of Statewide Prosecution. The State of Florida will seek the death penalty in its case against Holmberg.

"If you harm a child, we will find you, we will prosecute you, and we will seek the maximum penalty under the law," said **Attorney General James Uthmeier**. "The nature of these crimes demanded a statewide special task force, and the investigation is far from over. Hernando County Sheriff Nienhuis and State Attorney Gladson have the full support of our Office of Statewide Prosecution."

"When an individual commits a truly heinous crime, as in this case, the full weight of the law must be brought to bear," said **State Attorney Bill Gladson, Fifth Judicial Circuit**. "There is no place for mercy when the acts committed against a child are so unspeakable. Accountability will be had, any chance of recidivism will be nonexistent, and justice will be served."

"Florida is a state that is governed by the rule of law," said **Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis**. "Although it is never acceptable to commit a crime against another person, it is especially heinous to

victimize totally innocent and very young children, children who often put their complete trust in adults. Anyone who perverts that trust for sexual gratification can expect the full weight Florida's criminal justice system, and if found guilty, can expect the absolute harshest penalties."

This investigation, which spans multiple judicial circuits, is the first to operate at this level of joint authority, with members of the State Attorney's Office for the Fifth Judicial Circuit and the Hernando County Sheriff's Office operating under a special task force with statewide authority granted by the Attorney General's Office of Statewide Prosecution. This structure allows investigators to pursue leads and evidence across jurisdictions, ensuring no delay or obstacle stands in the way of protecting children and seeking justice.

On October 20, 2025, Hernando County Sheriff's deputies arrested Holmberg on three counts of capital sexual battery on a child under twelve and one count of promoting sexual performance by a child.

In 2023, Governor DeSantis signed legislation aimed at overturning the decision in *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, where the U.S. Supreme Court held that the death penalty could not be a punishment for raping a child.

This investigation is still ongoing. As the investigation unfolds, prosecutors may bring additional charges.

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Management Proposal for Atlantic Red Snapper Season
FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla.—

Governor Ron DeSantis announced

that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) formally submitted an Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) to U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick that, upon approval, will allow Florida to assume management of the recreational red snapper fishery in state and federal waters off the Atlantic Coast beginning in 2026.

“State management and expansion of Gulf snapper season have been a major boon for our Gulf of America communities, allowing so many Floridians and visitors to enjoy the Red Snapper our waters have to offer,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “I was proud to announce that Florida anglers will soon be able to enjoy more Atlantic Red Snapper fishing as well. The Trump Administration has taken action to rein in the bureaucracy and return this power to the states, where it belongs. To that end, Florida has submitted a formal request to the federal government for state management of the recreational red snapper fishery. Just as it has on the Gulf coast, Florida’s management of Atlantic Red Snapper fishing will boost local economies along our Atlantic coast, supporting tackle and bait shops, hotels, restaurants, and the entire recreational fishing community.”

Since January, the Trump Commerce Department, under the leadership of Secretary Lutnick, have stood firm for our angling community. Earlier this year, Secretary Lutnick **put fishermen first**, rejecting the Biden Administration’s last-ditch attempt to force sweeping closures off our coast—a move to begin the path of finally **reversing decades of failed federal control and to empower state-led**

management. Further, today’s announcement follows recent actions by the [Governors](#), [Attorneys General](#), and [Congressional](#) delegations of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

“Florida has proven it can effectively and efficiently manage the Atlantic recreational red snapper fishery,” said **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Roger Young**. “Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, the state has expanded access for and delivered greater opportunities for anglers in the Gulf year after year—demonstrating a strong commitment to both conservation and the fishing community. We are excited and ready to bring this level of expertise to manage the Atlantic recreational red snapper fishery.”

As submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Florida would implement a 39-day Atlantic Red Snapper season, a dramatic expansion from the two-day federal season allowed in 2025, an 1850% increase in fishing. The proposed season includes:

Summer: From May 22 (Memorial Day Weekend) through June 20

Fall: Three-day weekends in October (Oct. 2–4, 9–11, and 16–18)

Florida’s application leverages the same process used in the Gulf, where state management has produced results that support the species and anglers. Since assuming management in the Gulf, the Red Snapper season has risen from 3 to 127 days, an over 4100% increase for Florida’s Gulf anglers and for-hire operators.

The expanded season is expected to drive major economic growth for coastal communities, benefiting tackle and bait shops, hotels, restaurants, and Florida’s robust boating and fishing industries. Florida remains the nation’s leader in recreational fishing and boating, home to over 4 million licensed anglers, 922,000 registered boats, and a \$31.3 billion recreational boating industry supporting

over 100,000 jobs statewide.

The Governor also reinforced the success of the ongoing Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday, which suspends collection of sales tax on the retail sale of items needed for hunting, fishing, or camping in Florida’s great outdoors

Anyone fishing for red snapper from a private recreational vessel—in state or federal waters—must be registered as a State Reef Fish Angler (with annual renewal), even if exempt from fishing license requirements. Registration is available at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com.

For more on recreational snapper regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Marine.

Governor Ron DeSantis Celebrates Continued Everglades Restoration Momentum and Breaks Ground on New Inflow Pump Station at Critical EAA Reservoir Project

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Fla.—TGovernor Ron DeSantis attended the groundbreaking for the new inflow pump station at the critical EAA Reservoir Project. The EAA Reservoir, located south of Lake Okeechobee, will store over 78 billion gallons of water—larger than Manhattan—and deliver up to 470 billion gallons of clean water annually to the Everglades and Florida Bay. It also supports the Biscayne Aquifer, the primary source of drinking water for South Florida.

This ceremony marks the 80th milestone event since 2019, celebrating ribbon cuttings, groundbreakings, and major achievements across Everglades restoration projects under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis—the most in state history.

“Florida reached a historic agreement with the Trump Administration earlier this year to expedite and advance Everglades restoration,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Today, I was pleased to announce a milestone in Everglades restoration made possible by our cooperation with the federal government. Florida is now breaking ground on the new EAA Inflow Pump Station, an essential component of the EAA Reservoir project. This is the second Everglades restoration project to commence

since the agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers last summer, which has empowered Florida to step up our Everglades restoration efforts. Today’s groundbreaking marks the 80th milestone event in Everglades restoration that has taken place since 2019, thanks to our leadership and commitment to getting this done.”

“The EAA Reservoir is a critical component of Everglades restoration and Governor DeSantis has led the charge on getting this project done,” said **Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Alexis Lambert**. “Restoring America’s Everglades is one of the most ambitious environmental restoration projects ever undertaken and will restore the natural flow of clean water south to where it’s needed most. With every project we are delivering real results on time, under budget and with strong returns for Florida’s taxpayers.”

The new inflow pump station will have nine pumps and will be one of the largest pump stations in the State of Florida. The pump station will have the capability to move approximately 3 billion gallons of water per day from Lake Okeechobee into the EAA Reservoir.

For decades, Florida’s water system was altered to prevent flooding, but at the cost of cutting off the natural flow of water to the Everglades. The EAA Reservoir Project is designed to correct that—redirecting water south, restoring ecosystems, and significantly reducing harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries. Once complete, the EAA Reservoir will provide lasting benefits for Florida’s coastal communities and unique natural environment.

Today’s groundbreaking commemorates another major milestone since the new landmark agreement was signed in July 2025 between the State of Florida and the U.S. Department of the Army. This agreement supercharges Everglades restoration by accelerating the EAA Reservoir’s construction timeline by five years—from 2034 to 2029. It also cuts federal red tape and redirects resources to

Continued page 12

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DeSantis

Continued from page 11

fast-track critical restoration efforts. The State of Florida already held a groundbreaking for the Blue Shanty Flow Way in September 2025, a vital system that will deliver clean water south across Tamiami Trail and into Florida Bay.

Florida's leadership has already resulted in faster, cleaner, and more affordable restoration efforts. Since 2019:

- The C-44 reservoir is complete, the C-43 reservoir is complete, and the EAA Reservoir is being accelerated.
- Annual nutrient reduction totals have reached over 1.8 million pounds of nitrogen, and 770,000 pounds of phosphorus removed from Florida's waterways.
- South Florida's water storage capacity has tripled to 176 billion gallons.

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

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.

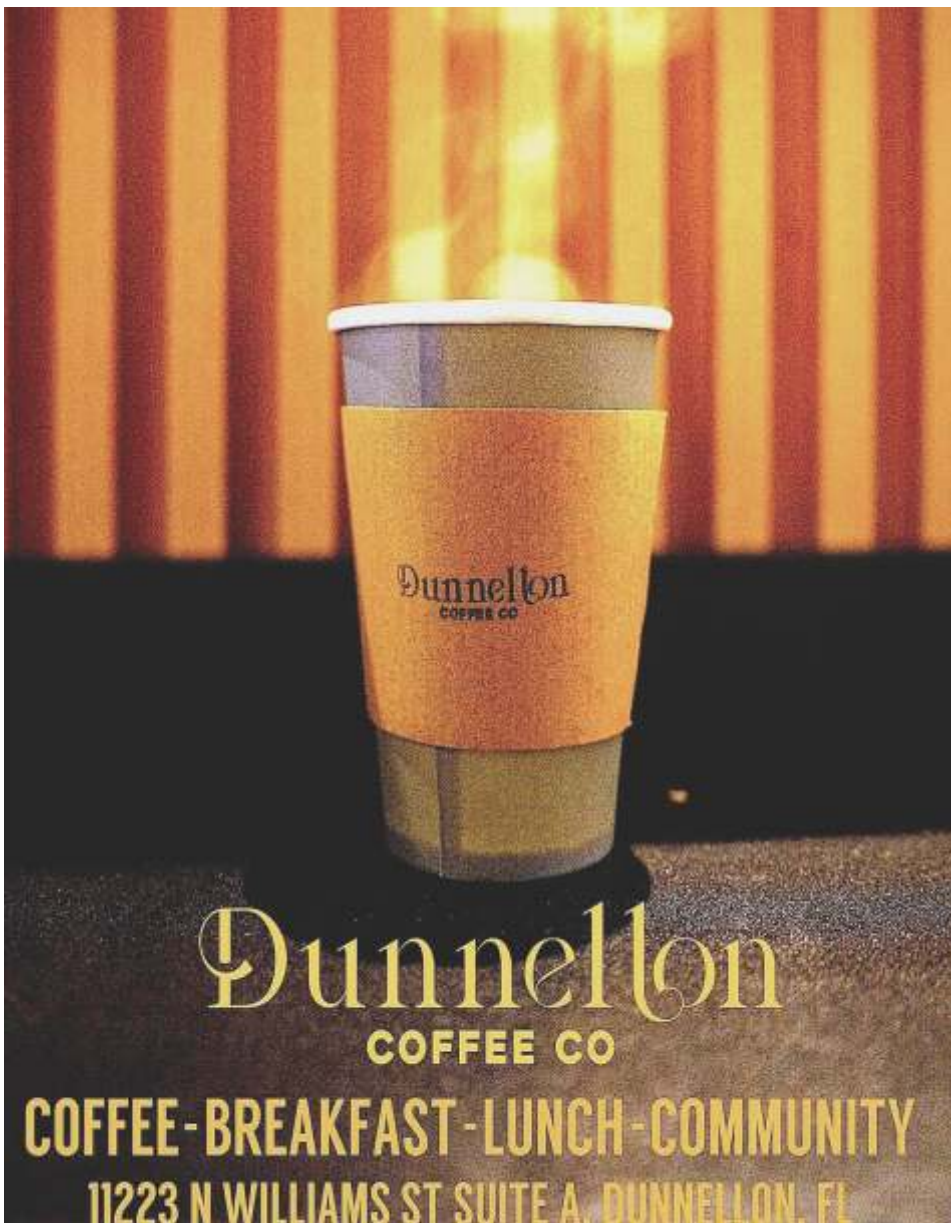


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