



Best Care Family Wellness Center Had their ribbon cutting and is now open.

Enhanced Christmas Event



Reflections

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 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

Town of Lady Lake announces enhanced Christmas events

LADY LAKE — The Town of Lady Lake invites the community to kick off the holiday season with two cherished annual traditions: the Christmas Parade and Light Up Lady Lake — with this year's lighting celebration taking place in a brand-new location.

Light Up Lady Lake returns Saturday, Nov. 22 from 6–8 p.m. and will debut in a new location at Snooky Park (120 W. Lady Lake Blvd.) For the first time, the event will be held prior to Thanksgiving to allow for longer enjoyment of the lights throughout the holiday season. Guests will experience a winter wonderland centered around a 34-foot Christmas tree, surrounded by thousands of sparkling lights. The event will feature live music, bounce houses, food trucks, vendors and photos with Santa after his arrival by sleigh.

"We are so excited to bring Light Up

Lady Lake to Snooky Park where we can grow this tradition even bigger," said Events Coordinator Amy Alicea. "This new location will give us a larger and safer place for the community to gather to celebrate together."

The Town's annual Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. along Old Dixie Highway. This year's theme, "Santa's Toy Workshop," will bring to life the magic of the North Pole with festive floats, holiday characters, and cheerful Christmas music.

Residents should be aware of the following road closures for the duration of the event: Clay Avenue and W. Lady Lake Boulevard will be closed to through traffic beginning at 9 a.m. County Road 466 between Rolling Acres Road and US Highway 27/441 will close at 9:45 a.m.

Both events are free and open to the public. Text LLChristmas to 38276 for updates throughout the season. For more details, visit www.ladylakefl.gov.

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!

We have a lot of reflection's that happened. Maybe we will write about ours or yours??? Tell me about them. tloury@att.net

Town News Lake County Events

Growth Management Department

Growth Management Department announces new office location

LADY LAKE - The Town of Lady Lake's Growth Management Department is moving to a new, larger and more convenient location at the Municipal Annex located at 221 W. Guava St., next to the Lady Lake Library.

During the transition, Growth Management's office - including Building Services, Planning and Zoning, and Code Enforcement - will be temporarily closed on Tuesday, Nov. 18 and Wednesday, Nov. 19.

As always, most Growth Management services are available online, 24 hours a day by visiting www.ladylakefl.gov and clicking on Growth Management. Online services include applying for permits, information on documentation needed to apply online, making payments, and filing or searching code cases.

All the same in-person services Growth Management provides will be available at the new location beginning Thursday, Nov. 20, including land use applications, rezoning, annexations, plan review, permitting, inspections, and code enforcement. Additionally, as an added benefit to the public, computers will be available in the lobby for searching permits or filling out permit applications.

A hotline will be open during normal business hours to assist customers during the transition and can be reached at 352-751-1511.

Driver Accused of DUI

Lady Lake Police arrest driver accused of DUI after traveling into oncoming traffic

LADY LAKE - Lady Lake police arrested a man late Wednesday night after he was seen driving into oncoming traffic on U.S. Highway 27/441.

Just before 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 12, officers responded to reports of a reckless driver near County Road 25 and Griffin Avenue. Callers reported a red Ford passenger car swerving, crossing lanes and nearly striking other vehicles.

Officer Amanda Hayes soon saw the car turn onto U.S. Highway 27/41, driving south in the northbound lanes as other drivers swerved to avoid a collision. Officers Hayes and Officer Josh Higgins blocked traffic and brought the vehicle to a stop near Water Oak Boulevard.

The driver A male 44, of Wildwood, showed signs of heavy impairment and could not stand on his own. Officers observed open containers of alcohol inside the vehicle. Driver was unable to stand without assistance and gave breath samples of 0.245 and 0.236, nearly three times the legal limit.

Driver admitted to drinking earlier in the night. Officers learned he had prior convictions for driving under the influence and suspended license.

He was arrested and taken to the Lake County Jail and the car was towed from the

scene.

"Our officers acted quickly and decisively to stop this vehicle before someone was seriously hurt," Chief Steve Hunt said. "Driving into oncoming traffic is extremely dangerous, and their fast response prevented what could have been a tragic outcome for innocent drivers."

E-Bike Thefts

Suspect confesses to a series of e-bike thefts.

LADY LAKE - A suspect has confessed to a recent string of thefts throughout Town in October, including four e-bikes and one e-scooter. The suspect, Alfred J. Woods II, was taken into custody on unrelated charges in Marion County on Oct. 25. While behind bars, he admitted to the thefts during an interview with Lady Lake detectives.

The first theft was reported on Oct. 9 at Recreation Plantation. Additional thefts happened on Oct. 20 at the Kohl's bike rack, Oct. 24 behind Ay Jalisco, and Oct. 25 behind Papa John's. In one incident, a victim placed an AirTag on their e-bike, allowing them to track and find it abandoned nearby. Another victim tracked their stolen e-scooter to Recreation Plantation and was able to help police with a suspect description.

When the description went out to law enforcement, Officer Ryan O'Neal recognized Woods as someone he had previously stopped riding an e-bike on C.R. 25A on Oct. 18 for a taillight violation.

Detectives later learned the suspect had been arrested in Marion County while riding an e-bike stolen hours earlier in Lady Lake. During an interview at the jail, the suspect admitted to the thefts and stated that his girlfriend sold the e-bikes to obtain money to support his drug addiction. Detectives are currently attempting to locate the woman involved and recover any remaining stolen property.

"This arrest was a result of thorough investigative work and collaboration," said Lady Lake Police Chief Steven Hunt. "We encourage everyone in our community to take extra steps to secure their property and report suspicious activity immediately."

Tips to Secure Your E-Bike

The Lady Lake Police Department encourages e-bike owners to take the following precautions:

- Use a high-quality U-lock or heavy steel chain lock and secure the frame, not just the wheel
- Lock your e-bike in well-lit, visible areas with high foot traffic
- Remove the battery whenever possible when parked in public
- Register the serial number and take photos of your bike to aid in recovery if stolen
- Consider using an AirTag or tracking device discreetly attached to the bike
- Never leave an e-bike unsecured outside overnight or unattended for long periods

Anyone with additional information on this case is asked to contact the Lady Lake Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit at 352-751-1565.

Link: [News Flash Suspect confesses to a series of e-bike thefts](#)

Elisha Pappacoda



Ribbon Cutting for Emancipatrix: Women's Sexual Health & Wellness Alliance



Chris Semans State Farm Ribbon Cutting Lake, FL - New Office Come by and visit and Grand Opening, 410 Hwy 466, Lady



Coffee and Connections, Morning Networking Located at The Standard Coffee, 1552 Bella Cruz Dr., Lady Lake

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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Lake County Detention Center Public Booking Log page 6

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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



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 tows 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 they have some the best writers. One of the publishers said and I quote AI will allow college students to cheat on their homework. 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 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

Continued page 11

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, December 23rd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 26th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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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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my wish

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Building Businesses thru 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.

When a city person comes to the woods they think they can shoot ion any direction, please look around there are houses in those

woods!

Have you ever noticed the words they use on the internet to get you to read there info?

- Trump just dropped a bomb shell
- Caught on Camera
- Shocking
- Caught in explosive power struggle
- Final warning
- The hidden tax
- Government shut down delayed

I am getting use to to reading the explosive words.

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



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 heal 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.

Lake County Detention Center

Public Booking Log

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

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

Or go to

Tomlpublishing.com and click on **Lake County Sheriff** on right side under **"Contributing Editors"**.



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LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

Dec 02

The Longest Night at First Presbyterian: A Service of Hope & Healing

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Evening offers a gentle, reflective worship experience with beautiful music especially for those who have lost a loved one, are grieving

Dec 05

Exploration Hike

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Ferndale Preserve in **Clermont**

Join staff and explore the habitats and species of Ferndale Preserve. Hike intensity: Vigorous. Reservations required.

Dec 05

Lakeridge Lights - an Interactive Drone Show Experience

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards in **Clermont** 12/512/6

Lakeridge Winery & Vineyards will be hosting a 2 night event showcasing amazing drone shows, food, wine, and music. Tickets are \$35 plus taxes and fees...

Dec 06

Wetland Excursion - Scrub Point Preserve

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Scrub Point Preserve in **Clermont**

Join us for a fast paced, guided hike at Scrub Point Preserve to explore the diverse ecosystems within the Preserve, including the plants and animals

Dec 06

Leesburg Christmas Festival & Parade

1:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in **Leesburg**

City of Leesburg's Christmas Festival & Parade, proudly presented by Summit

Broadband Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg

Dec 07

Exploration Hike

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM P.E.A.R. Park (Gateway) in **Leesburg**

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

Dec 07

Alternative Giving Christmas Market at First Presbyterian

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Give meaningful gifts that make a difference in the world. Make donations to support local and global missions in honor of your loved ones

Dec 07

Exploration Hike

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM P.E.A.R. Park Reserve Gateway in **Leesburg**

Join staff on an early evening walk while exploring nature at P.E.A.R. Park. Hiking Intensity: Light. Reservations Required.

Dec 10

Water Wednesday

10:00 AM - 11:30 PM Hickory Point Preserve in **Tavares**

Discover how Florida's wetlands change during the winter months. Activity: Learn how to create a wildlife cache to help animals survive during colder months

Dec 12

Tracks and Signs

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake Norris Conservation Area in **Eustis**

Join staff on an adventure to see what signs have left behind by the site's residents.

Dec 13

Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM PEAR Park - WCA in **Leesburg**

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

Dec 13

Umatilla's 50th Annual Cracker Christmas Parade & Festival

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Downtown Umatilla in **Umatilla**

Join us as we celebrate our "Golden Jubilee!" with 50 years of holiday cheer at the Umatilla's 50th Annual Cracker Christmas parade and festival.

Dec 13

Tracks and Scat

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail and Trailhead in **Sorrento**

Who goes there and who left that? Join park staff on a discovery of what animals left their tracks and scat, from bears to bugs.

Dec 14

Christmas Concert at First Presbyterian

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Enjoy an inspiring evening of festive music favorites featuring the Chancel Choir, Jubilate Handbell Ensemble, and talented soloists

Dec 19

Stories of Water (Leesburg)

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

Joins us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Flat Island Preserve. Hike intensity: moderate. Reservations required.

Dec 20

Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Pine Meadows Conservation Area in **Eustis**

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

Dec 20

Open House

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

Nature Center will be open and a naturalist will be on site to answer questions.

Dec 20

Tea with Santa

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Mission Resort + Club in **Howey-in-the-Hills**

Tea with Santa returns Saturday, Dec 20 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Enjoy festive bites, kids' activities, photos with Santa, and a teddy bear for each child

Dec 24

Carols & Cookies at First Presbyterian

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Gather around as we sing beloved Christmas carols that tell the story of Christ's birth, followed by delicious cookies and fellowship

Dec 31

Christmas Grand Brunch Buffet

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mission Resort + Club in **Howey-in-the-Hills**

Celebrate the season at our Christmas Grand Brunch Buffet! Enjoy traditional holiday favorites, from carved meats and seasonal sides to decadent dessert..

Dec 31

New Year's Eve Gala

8:30 PM - 12:30 AM Mission Resort + Club in **Howey-in-the-Hills**

Step into a night of intrigue and glamour at our 2025 Masquerade Ball New Year's Eve Gala.

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Lady Lake Business Luncheon



Membership Reception at The Waterfront Inn

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 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



YOU'RE INVITED!

Dec 2
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Networking Breakfast
Bob Evans, 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages

Dec 3
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Membership Committee Meeting
Chamber Office, 106 Hwy 27/441, Lady Lake

Dec 6
10 - 12
Christmas Parade
Old Dixi Hwy

Dec 10
11:00 - 1:00 pm
Board and Ambassador Meeting
Eaton's Beach, 15790 SE 134th Ave, Weirsdale

Dec 18
11:30 - 1:00 pm
Networking Lunch
Glenview Country Club, 3194 Glenview Rd., The Villages

Dec 24 - 28
Office will be CLOSED

Dec 31 - Jan 4
Office will be CLOSED



Lake Hypnosis Ribbon Cutting - Lake Hypnosis Located 117 N US Hwy 27/441 Lady Lake

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

Make your voice known!



Adult DECEMBER

Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed: December 17th from 11:30-6pm
 Closed: December 24 & 25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chair Yoga 1 @10am & @11:30am ESL @10-11:30am (Sign Up Required)	 Christmas Tree 2 Stroll with Christmas Music @2-4pm	SHINE 2-4pm 3	 NEW Shelter Treats- Make Homemade Dog Treats For Shelter Dogs @3-4pm Sign Up Required 4	Board Games Meetup! @2-4pm 5
Chair Yoga 8 @10am & @11:30am ESL @10-11:30am (Sign Up Required)	Book Discussion 9 @ 2-4pm	SHINE 2-4pm 10	Paint with Marsha 11 @2-4pm Sign Up Required	 12
ESL @10-11:30am 15 Page Turners Book Club @5:30pm	16	Open from 9 to 11:30 am Closed from 11:30am - 6pm 17	Bingo! 18 @2-3:30pm sign up required	Crochet Club 19 @ 3-4:30pm
ESL @10-11:30am 22	 23	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE 24	CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS 25	Apple Support iPhone, iPad, iMac @ 10:00-11:00am 26
ESL @10-11:30am 29	30	 31	On December 17th, we will be closed after 11:30 am for the rest of the day for an in-service event for town employees. Our normal hours will resume December 18th.	

Youth DECEMBER

Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed: December 17th from 11:30-6pm
 Closed: December 24 & 25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alphabet Adventures 1 @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	Tiny Tots 2 @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm	Storytime 10:30am 3 Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	Krafting Kandy 4 Ages 12-18 @3:30-4:30pm	Little Sprouts Playtime 5 (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
Alphabet Adventures 8 @11:30am Evening with Santa and Mrs Claus @5:30-6:30pm	Tiny Tots 9 @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm	Storytime 10:30am 10 Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	Senpai Squad 11 Ages 12-17 @4:00pm 	Little Sprouts Playtime 12 (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am Lego Masters @ 3:30-4:30pm
Alphabet Adventures 15 @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	Tiny Tots 16 @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm	Santa at Storytime 17 10:30am Open from 9 - 11:30 am Closed from 11:30 - 6 pm	Page Masters 18 Tween Book Club Juniper's Christmas by Eoin Colfer @4pm	Little Sprouts Playtime 19 (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am Video Games @3:30-4:30pm Christmas Rave @5:30-6:30pm Sign Up Required
Alphabet Adventures 22 @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	Tiny Tots 23 @ 10:30am Charlie Brown Christmas Movie and a Craft! @3:30pm	Closed for Christmas Eve 24	Closed for Christmas 25	Little Sprouts Playtime 26 (Up to 18 months) @10:30-11:30am Lego Masters @ 3:30-4:30pm
Alphabet Adventures 29 @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	Tiny Tots 30 @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm	Storytime 10:30am 31 Read with Scarlett 3:00pm-4:00pm	On December 17th, we will be closed after 11:30 am for the rest of the day for an in-service event for town employees. Our normal hours will resume December 18th.	

Publisher's

Continued from page 4

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...

FIRE 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!

For Sale An Email (Barter Business)

Ocala DownTown Agencies MAKE OFFER!

It is a member with \$8900 trade available in ITEX Barter network organization see below!

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
Call Tom Loury 352-804-1223

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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.

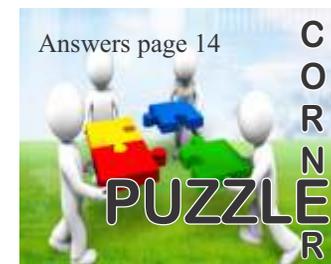
Today, more than 15.8 million veterans live in the United States, with tens of thousands calling Florida's Third Congressional District home.

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:



Answers page 14

Across

- 1. Decides to go
- 10. Don't go
- 15. Misconception
- 16. Cavaradossi's lover
- 17. "That's personal"
- 19. Comic Louis
- 20. Putter, ideally
- 21. Desiccated
- 22. At another time
- 24. ___ dictum: passing remark
- 26. Dictator's aide
- 29. David's eldest son
- 31. Birth
- 34. Capt.'s heading
- 37. Save the day
- 39. Thin-rail filling
- 40. Listen
- 41. Apothecaries' weights
- 42. Not reached, as a goal
- 43. One of the Bernoullis

- 46. "Overturned Blue Shoe With Two Heels Under a Black Vault" and others
- 48. "A Jug of Wine ..." poet
- 49. Reunion attendee
- 52. "___ the year's midnight ...": Donne
- 55. A-test danger
- 59. Record
- 60. Not that bad
- 61. Columbia players
- 62. Surgery tool
- Down
- 1. Matching
- 2. Host
- 3. Used up
- 4. ___-Caps: candy
- 5. Smiley, for one: Abbr.
- 6. Print made on stone, briefly
- 7. Cineplex theater name
- 8. Foster child?
- 9. 8 on the Beaufort scale
- 10. UPS unit
- 11. Gets connected
- 12. To date
- 13. Get home?
- 14. "Crossworlds" actor
- 18. You can dig it

- 22. Stake
- 23. Road sign
- 25. Crams
- 26. Compassionate gp.
- 27. Town near Wheeler Peak, New Mexico
- 28. "Cope Book" name
- 29. A Musketeer
- 30. Air
- 32. 1982 Toto hit
- 33. Action ___
- 34. Fraud
- 35. Indisputable
- 36. Word with wind or wing
- 38. D.C. group
- 41. Southwestern Connecticut town
- 43. Superman's father
- 44. Certain Arab
- 45. Couldn't help it
- 46. Bases' antitheses
- 47. Variety
- 50. Its parliament is the Althing: Abbr.
- 51. 2002 erupter
- 52. Lazy river floater
- 53. Madonna's "La ___ Bonita"
- 54. Stalk
- 56. IV sites
- 57. Slip
- 58. Light touch

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.

Medical and Cancer Research

New Survey Finds Overwhelming Public Support for Federal Funding for Medical and Cancer Research

(NAPSI)—When it comes to federal spending, the majority of Americans want Congress to make increasing medical research funding a high priority.

A recent national poll conducted by the

American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) found very high levels of support for federal funding for medical and cancer research across the electorate.

Highlights of the survey include:

- 89% of voters favor the federal government using taxpayer dollars to fund medical research to fight diseases and improve public health.
- 71% of voters think increasing federal funding for medical research should be a top congressional priority.
- 72% of voters who believe reducing the national debt and federal spending should be a top congressional priority also think increasing medical research funding should be a "high" or "highest" priority issue for Congress.
- 83% of voters, including 75% each of independents, Republicans, and MAGA supporters and 93% of Democrats, favor increasing federal funding for cancer research.
- Voters have high levels of confidence in cancer researchers and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to act in the best interests of the public. 71% of survey respondents express a "great deal" or "quite a bit" of confidence in cancer researchers, while 65% express a "great deal" or "quite a bit" of confidence in NCI.
- 77% of voters say they would feel more favorable toward their congressional representative if he or she voted to increase federal funding for cancer research over the next decade.

Funding Leads to Progress for Patients

"As these survey results demonstrate, the American public strongly supports robust federal funding for medical and cancer research," said Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc), chief executive officer of the AACR. "Cancer affects everyone. Sustained and predictable investments in the National Institutes of Health and NCI are essential if we are to power new breakthroughs against cancer and other diseases and uphold a national commitment to the patients and families who are relying on lifesaving progress."

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FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE



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 detainees 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.

The following individuals were arrested and charged as a result of the operation:

- Isaias Chaman Coy, 40, Guatemala**
 - Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child
 - Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child
- David Desormeaux, 39, Canada**
 - Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child

- Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child
- Use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Miguel Angel, 34

- Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child
- Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child

Antonio Frederico Perez Rojas, 22, Guatemala

- Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child
- Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child
- Use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Mohamed Kamal Mesregah, 38, Egypt

- Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child
- Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child
- Use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony

Jeremiah Jamel Gillyard, 34

- Use of a computer to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice a child
- Travel to meet after use of a computer to lure child
- Use of a two-way communication device to facilitate felony

These cases are being prosecuted by Attorney General James Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution, State Attorney's Office for the 19th Judicial Circuit, and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida.

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 Neinhuis. “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

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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.— Today, Governor 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 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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Community of Gratitude Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club



Let's Talk About Gratitude... Community of Gratitude: Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club Deepens Support for Local Food Pantry Following Equipment Failure

Lady Lake, FL — The Orange Blossom Gardens (OBG) Lions Club has reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to addressing food insecurity in the region through support for the Community of Gratitude Food Pantry. As families across Central Florida face rising costs and increasing need, the Pantry continues to serve as a critical lifeline, providing essential groceries, meal supplies, and emergency food assistance to hundreds of households each month.

This November, the OBG Lions further strengthened this partnership with several contributions underscoring the Club's dedication to service, compassion, and community impact.

Last week, the Club donated 100 Walmart gift cards (\$10 each) to assist the Pantry's annual holiday meal program, helping local families prepare for the season with dignity and stability. Shortly after, Lions members delivered the results of the Club's October Community Food Drive, where local residents contributed more than 500 non-perishable food items. The OBG Lions then matched this total with an additional 500 items, resulting in more than 1,000 donated

goods supporting local households experiencing food insecurity.

Food insecurity continues to affect families in every part of the region, including working families, seniors on fixed incomes, and individuals facing unexpected medical or financial hardship. Community food pantries like Community of Gratitude play a vital role in bridging those gaps, ensuring that no family is left without the essentials they need to get through the week.

When Lions members arrived to deliver the October donations, they learned that the Pantry's three-wide commercial refrigerator unit had failed beyond repair, causing the loss of critical cold storage capacity and a significant amount of perishable food. The failure placed immediate strain on the Pantry's operations at one of the busiest times of the year.

Recognizing the urgency, the OBG Lions convened an emergency board meeting, then brought the matter to the full membership on Wednesday, November 12. The Club voted to fund an immediate solution. The Lions purchased two brand-new, 20-cubic-foot refrigerator units (freezerless) to restore the Pantry's cold-storage needs and prevent future distribution interruptions. In addition, the Club will purchase \$500 in replacement food to help cover the loss caused by the equipment breakdown.

"Our mission is grounded in service, and moments like this demonstrate the true value of community partnerships," said Barbara Crewell, President of the OBG Lions Club. "The Community of Gratitude Food Pantry is essential to the well-being of our neighbors. When an unexpected setback occurs, the Lions step forward to ensure that families continue to receive the support they rely on."

OBG Lion Robert Vass added, "Food insecurity is a very real challenge for many. By working together with donors, volunteers, and organizations like Community of Gratitude, we can make sure that help is available when it's needed most. Gratitude isn't just a theme for the season; it's the foundation of how we serve."

The Orange Blossom Gardens Lions Club encourages community members to join in supporting this essential work. Contributions help the Lions respond quickly to urgent needs and continue funding programs that directly impact local individuals and families.

Donations may be made securely online at www.obglions.com, or by mailing a check made payable to OBG Lions to:

Robert Vass

Attny General

Continued from page 13

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.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Guilty Verdict for Predator Charged with Possession of Child Sexual Abuse Materials

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier's Office of Statewide Prosecution has secured the conviction of Phuc Minh Tran, 38, of Lehigh Acres, on 40 counts of child pornography possession.

"This predator is facing decades behind bars, which is right where he belongs," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Deputy Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Julie Chaikin and Senior Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Agnieszka Thomas, this monster is off the streets and away from our children."

On August 15, 2024, Florida Department of Law Enforcement officers carried out a search warrant at Tran's residence after known child sexual abuse material was flagged by the FDLE cyber squad as being downloaded by Tran. Tran was arrested on the scene.

After a week-long jury trial, Tran was found guilty on all 40 felony charges of second-degree possession, control, or intentional viewing of child pornography.

Tran will be sentenced on December 22 and faces up to 600 years in the Department of Corrections.

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