

Lady Lake Chamber Has Moved



The log cabin was the Lady Lake Chamber for years. Actually it was named in history as its Chambers home. The Lady Lake Chamber needed something a little more modern, so they moved into a building that was available in Fruitland Park Florida. The Janet & Leslie are excited. I am also because I always felt that the building was stuffy, smelling and moldy.

I went to their ribbon cutting to take pictures to share with you and probably a

hundred more members showed up., Plenty of parking, they had a food truck, a DJ, snacks, door prizes, I think it will be great, I would like it to be a little further north, but it is a nice building.

I am looking forward to the future of the Chambers Growth. If anyone can do it the ladies go the chamber and the members can! TomL said that! One last thing join the Chamber call 352-753-6029

More photos on pages 8 & 9



Wendy Netherclift, a long time employee of TomL publishing and Bob Irwin, Owner of Bobs Coins and Jewelry, after 14 years has finally made it official!

A medieval wedding, complete with jousting, ax throwing, archery and ring toss was held on their 10 acre farm February 28, 2026.

The "King And Queen" Out riders were none other than Kailah and Skyler Netherclift. Wendy's children of whom

both also worked for TomL Publishing for a number of years.

It was an amazing fun filled event for all that attended and will be remembered for many as a "first time I've EVER been to a wedding like that!!"

Bob and Wendy thoroughly enjoyed a cruise to 9 different Caribbean islands on their honeymoon.

I Wonder - Ask AI (part 1)

Why Do Troubled People Do Drastic Acts of Violence?

By TomL

I believe most people who have troubled minds are mostly caused by actions of others close to them. If you pay attention you will see it displayed. I ask AI if troubled person could be hypnotized into performing violent deeds? AI's answer was "not likely."

So the only other conclusion I can come to is "brain washing."? I ask AI Is it possible that a troubled person can be brain washed with Social Media? AI said yes it is possible to Brain wash a troubled person. Keep repeating a message over and over in front of the target person so maybe they will finally crack or believe you to the point of wanting to take action. Then they make a suggestion. So maybe they respond to you. The Brain washer responds you will be famous if you did this or that deed. How do we deal with this problem. We have to put regulation

on social media! There is a legal battle going on right now.

Start by telling people with a troubled mind the opposite. Probably could be handled by their parents. They are not crazy, they are troubled. First give them help. Tell the people with this problem that there is evil works at hand and they are trying to convince them to do bad things! Encourage the troubled person to talk to someone they trust about their thoughts.

We have been ignoring the problem about mental instability for years, because we caused a lot of it. I knew guys and girls who come back from war with warp sense of reality. One guy ask me if I wanted to see a dead body? I hope you know I said NO! But as this guy goes on in life he will show those pictures and they could make someone deathly afraid of going into the Military.

Suggest they seek help, make help more easily accessible.

I Wonder - Ask AI (part 2)

Is It Possible To Hypnotize Someone To Do A Violent Act?

By TomL

I ask AI? Yes I'm using AI for important

question so I can get a different view. More like common sense.

I ask AI is it possible to hypnotize someone into doing a violent act?

Answer: While the idea of a "Manchurian Candidate" (a person hypnotized to commit murder) is a popular trope in fiction, scientific and psychological consensus suggests it is highly unlikely to be the cause of violent acts in reality.

AI is it possible to Brain Wash a person through Social Media to commit a violent act? YES! There are certain conditions that a

person can be brain Washed through social media!

I guess the next question would be is that going on in today's world? The Courts will make a decision it.

I ask AI can someone be convinced to harm our political leaders?? AI says:

YES! Generated misinformation, *Continued page 5*

Town News Lake County Events

Cybersecurity Training

Cybersecurity Training Focused On Phone Safety

Lady Lake to host second cybersecurity training focused on phone safety. The Town of Lady Lake will host the second installment in its cybersecurity training series on March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Lady Lake Library. The session will again be led by Howard Davis, the Town's IT cybersecurity expert. Based on feedback from the previous training, this presentation will focus specifically on phone cybersecurity, providing residents with practical tools to protect their personal information while using smartphones and mobile devices. Davis will cover common phone-based scams, suspicious text messages, malicious apps, and ways cybercriminals attempt to gain access to sensitive data through mobile platforms. Attendees will also learn best practices for securing their devices, identifying red flags, and reducing the risk of identity theft or fraud. The training is free and open to the public and is designed for users of all experience levels. Registration is not required. For more information, contact Howard Davis at ladylake.cybersec@gmail.com.

LL Library Accepts \$5,500 Donation

The Orange Blossom Lions Club of Lady Lake recently donated \$5,500 to fully fund the Lady Lake Library's 2026 Children's Summer Reading Program. Their generous support will help inspire thousands of children in the community to keep reading and learning all summer long.

Pictured: (Left) Barbara Crewel, president of the Lions Club of Orange Blossom Gardens/Lady Lake and (right) Aly Herman, Lady Lake Library director.

LLPD & American Legion Event

Lady Lake Police Department And American Legion Host Shredding Event

LADY LAKE – The Lady Lake Police Department, in partnership with American Legion Post #347, are hosting the second annual “Shred it and Forget it,” a free drive-through shredding event to help protect seniors from scams.

The event will take place on Saturday, April 25 from 9 – 11:30 a.m. (or until capacity is met) at Post 347, located at 699 W. Lady Lake Blvd. Residents are invited to drive through with a limit of two banker boxes of documents to be shredded, free of charge. The event is open to all area residents and will be held rain or shine. Last year, approximately 1,000 people attended, successfully shredding 20,000 pounds of documents.

The event is another opportunity offered

by the Town in its ongoing efforts to help residents avoid scams and fraud.

“This shredding event gives residents a simple, secure way to dispose of sensitive documents and protect their personal information - especially during tax season,” said Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt. “Properly shredding old financial records, medical paperwork and other confidential materials helps prevent identity theft and keeps private information out of the wrong hands.”

“Shred it and Forget it” is made possible with the assistance of Veterans Memorial Post 347, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 347, and American Legion Riders Chapter 347.

What can be shredded:

- Clean paper, any color and any size
- Blueprints
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Brochures
- Mail (including window envelopes)
- Photographs
- File folders, any color (no need to remove staples, paper clips, rubber bands, or small binder clips)

What cannot be shredded:

- Cardboard
- Wet or moldy material
- Telephone books
- Hardcover books
- Plastic bags and packing material
- Computer discs, CDs or DVDs
- Backup and VCR tapes
- Transparencies
- ID badges and driver's licenses
- Microfiche and microfilm
- X-rays
- Batteries (no batteries of any kind)
- USB thumb drives
- Computer parts
- Printer and photocopier parts
- Trash or hazardous materials
- Biohazardous and medical waste (including needles and sharps)
- Metals (including binders and hanging folders with metal hangers)

LLPD First Arrest New Technology

Lady Lake Police make first arrest using new License Plate Reader technology

LADY LAKE — The Lady Lake Police Department has made its first arrest using the department's new license plate reader (LPR) camera system, demonstrating how technology can assist officers in identifying stolen vehicles and apprehending suspects.

On March 10 at around 3:30 p.m., Lady Lake officers were alerted by the department's Safety LPR system that a stolen vehicle was traveling southbound on U.S. Highway 27/441 near Avenida Central. The car had been entered into the National Crime Information Center database as stolen through the Lake County Sheriff's Office.

Officers conducted a search of the area and found the car in the parking lot of Publix on Bichara Boulevard. Sgt. Heather Couch located and arrested the vehicle's driver, later identified as suspect Stephanie Lynn Barbee, 37. During the investigation, officers determined Barbee had been in possession of the car for two days. A search of the vehicle uncovered a bag containing a crystal-like substance that tested presumptively positive for methamphetamine and weighed 1.29 grams. Officers also recovered pills later identified as benzodiazepine.

Barbee was charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of benzodiazepine. She was transported to the Lake County Jail. A passenger in the vehicle, James Smith, 24, was also arrested on separate drug-related charges.

“This case is a great example of how technology and good police work go hand in hand,” Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt said. “The license plate reader system alerted our officers to the stolen vehicle, but it was the quick response and proactive work of our officers that ultimately led to the arrest. Tools like this help us respond faster, recover stolen property, and keep our community safer.”

The system uses cameras to capture license plate numbers and vehicle characteristics such as make, model, and color. It then sends alerts when a vehicle associated with a crime or missing person alert is detected. The cameras do not use facial recognition or collect biometric data, and all data is automatically deleted after 30 days.

The Lady Lake Police Department recently installed the cameras at key entry points throughout Town.

Suspect Charged Attempted Murder

Suspect charged with attempted murder
LADY LAKE — The Lady Lake Police Department has charged a man with attempted murder and aggravated battery following a stabbing that occurred Friday evening near Veterans Memorial Park in The Villages.

On March 7, the Sumter County Sheriff's Office notified the Lady Lake Department of a stabbing victim facing life threatening injuries being treated at UF Health Spanish Plains in Sumter County. He was later airlifted to UF Health Shands in Gainesville where he underwent surgery and survived. Investigators determined the incident occurred in a parking lot near Veterans Memorial Park on Paige Place in Lady Lake (The Villages) at around 8 p.m.

According to investigators, the altercation involved the victim, a 39-year-old male, and the suspect, William Tyler Warren, 42, and reportedly stemmed from a dispute involving a female acquaintance.

The 37-year-old female involved was not initially located but was later contacted and is cooperating with authorities. She was arrested on a warrant out of Georgia.

Warren, who had recently moved with the female to Lady Lake from Georgia to the 700 block of Turnberry Lane in Orange Blossom Gardens, was detained by the Marion County Sheriff's Office and transported to the Marion County Jail. Lady Lake detectives interviewed Warren at the jail, where he admitted his involvement in the incident.

Warren is facing charges of attempted murder and aggravated battery.

“This was a violent incident that left the victim with serious injuries,” said Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt. “Our officers and detectives moved quickly to investigate the case and worked with our law enforcement partners to locate the suspect. We are committed to holding those responsible for violent crimes accountable and ensuring the safety of our community.” The investigation remains ongoing.

Tree City USA

Lady Lake designated Tree City USA for the 21st year.

The Town of Lady Lake has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for the 21st consecutive year, continuing a long-standing commitment to urban forestry, environmental stewardship and community beautification.

To earn the designation, communities must meet four core standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation: maintaining a tree board or department, adopting a tree care ordinance, investing at least \$2 per capita in a community forestry program, and observing Arbor Day annually.

The Town of Lady Lake celebrates Arbor Day each April with community tree plantings. Over the last several years, the Town has planted trees in public spaces such as Lake County Fire Station 52 and Lady Lake Town Hall. This year, Parks and Recreation joined Public Works in a large-scale landscaping project along County Road 466, planting palm trees, crepe myrtles and zoysia grass, as well as updating the irrigation system.

On April 23 at 9:30 a.m., the Town invites the public to a tree planting ceremony outside the grounds of The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake.

Lady Lake is also currently hosting an annual Tree Raffle, providing residents with the opportunity to receive \$200 gift certificates to purchase trees from a local nursery. The raffle is funded through the town's tree bank, which is supported by developer contributions when tree preservation requirements cannot be fully met on-site.

Through its land development regulations, the town requires developers to contribute to the tree bank to offset tree removal, reinforcing Lady Lake's commitment to responsible growth and long-term environmental sustainability.

Communities recognized as Tree City USA demonstrate that thoughtful investment in trees contributes to cooler temperatures, improved air quality, increased property values and an enhanced

Continued page 11

Billy Berg Mac & Cheese Fifth Annual Festival



At the fifth annual Billy Berg mac & cheese festival and business showcase Eaton's Beach took home 3 1st Pl. trophies. First place from People's choice. First place from judges choice. And first place from kids choice.



Cypress Care Center came in second place people's choice at the fifth annual Billy Berg, mac & cheese festival and business showcase



The Daily Sun came in third place for people's choice at the fifth annual Billy Berg, Mac & cheese festival and business showcase

The Villages Charter School



The Villages Charter School is taking agriculture education to the next level with a state-of-the-art hydroponic fodder farm. This innovative facility allows students to experience modern feed

production and agricultural technology firsthand.

Integrated into the school's agriscience and animal science programs, the modular system fosters experiential learning while introducing students to controlled

environment agriculture and its importance for resilient food systems.

Designed and manufactured by FarmBox Foods, the fodder farm is part of a larger initiative that includes deploying hydroponic fodder farms and vertical hydroponic farms across four Sumter County Schools.

The Villages Charter School, a K-12 workforce development hub, serves as an economic development tool for The Villages community, educating children whose parents work for The Villages corporation or its partner businesses.

Heather Chastain, who teaches agriscience foundations, agritechnology, and animal science, emphasizes that while the region is experiencing rapid growth, farming and livestock traditions remain strong, and residents remain deeply connected to agriculture. Her students are using the fodder farm as a research and production tool to study how the school's livestock respond to feed with higher

vitamin and mineral content. They're growing fresh barley fodder on-site and evaluating its potential to reduce feed costs and replace hay during winter when pasture grass is dormant.

The decision to purchase a fodder farm was partly driven by challenges following recent hurricanes, which caused flooding and limited access to grazing areas for extended periods.

Indoor feed production lets the program keep supporting livestock even when fields are inaccessible, making it better prepared for future storms. It also gives neighboring programs a helping hand during disruptions by keeping feed production going all year round.

Thanks to a partnership with Sumter County Schools, led by Casey Ferguson, director of career and technical education and adult education, the system got about \$1.7 million in grant funding. Ferguson looked at different container farming solutions and found FarmBox Foods to be

the best fit for both educational goals and practical needs across the district.

Students have quickly taken charge of the system. Two students take care of daily and weekly maintenance, while others help during harvest and feeding. The technology has attracted students who might not usually be interested in traditional animal agriculture because it emphasizes automation, data, and problem-solving. School leaders see the FarmBox Foods fodder farm as a great way to show how agriculture and technology are connected and to start conversations about resilience, sustainability, innovation, and food security in small rural communities.

If you want to know more about the program or schedule an interview with the school's leadership, email Dr. Kelly Colley at kelly.colley@tvcs.org.

What Say You?
TLoury@att.net

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

Who is Zohran Mandami? The New York Times says. He is the New York City mayor sworn into office in January 2026, was born in Kampala, Uganda, in 1991 to Indian parents. He is of

Indian descent, spent part of his childhood in South Africa, moved to New York City at age 7, and became a U.S. citizen in 2018 while retaining Ugandan citizenship.

- **Birthplace:** Kampala, Uganda.
- **Parents:** He is the son of acclaimed filmmaker Mira Nair and academic Mahmood Mamdani.
- **Background:** He moved to South Africa at age 5 and later to New York City at age 7.
- **Identity:** He is the first African-

born, South Asian, and Muslim mayor of New York.

Mamdani is a dual citizen of the United States and Uganda. Weeks after he was sworn in he is raising taxes on the middle class which he swore he would not do! The wealthy decided not to stay and be taxed to death so they left and went to another state. I say Bernie Sanders should have been smarter than this. He had to know Mandami was going to have to raise taxes. Sanders is a failed "want to be" Presidential candidate that has been misused by the Democratic Party for years. They are renaming the Democratic Party the Democratic Socialist Party of America. The democrats has lost their party and the socialist Communist have invaded it! According by Google search I ask?

Is Mandami aloud to lie? In Islam, lying is generally considered a grave sin, but it is permitted in three specific, limited circumstances to prevent greater harm or achieve reconciliation. These exceptions include reconciling broken relationships,

situations of war (to protect life), and to ease tensions between spouses. It is not a general license to deceive.

Come on lying is lying so and should not be aloud during a campaign, he has deceived the voters of New York. He should be impeached!

LATE BREAKING: News reports that there was an attempt to set off two bombs in front of Mamdani resident. The NYPD caught both bombers and after there was no thank you??? I think he wants to defund the police or reduce their numbers. There was a video of the Chief of police leaping over a barricade to catch one of the bad guys.

I believe that all Government Political Officials must be born in the USA! Of course he is not Government ...YET! What say you? tloury@att.net

Who is the enemy? What do they want us to do?

Let's go back to the beginning. The first thing the enemy does is spread propaganda to the uneducated about we are living on stolen land. So how do we fix this? Give it back? Not going to happen, the Indians were nomads. They got to America by following the weather and following the animal migrations. They needed warmth and food. They did not build a house because they knew they would be leaving with the weather change and the animal migration. So did they own land they were

visiting every year or so? NOT HARDLY! When the west was settled there was not a real standard for the Indians because they were at war with the white man. That brings us to the name Braves, they need to show their might. There were a lot of white settlers that were not nice but they were promised a piece of the west and some were wiped out, killed, women taken. Real war!

This brings us to now. Our enemies convince the uneducated masses that we stole this land and that they should fight the government. Our government has Laws in order for the government to keep order.

One off our worst enemies is Bernie Sanders, a communist that has been abused by the Republican Party. Each Election cycle Bernie wanted to run for president under the Democratic Party. Each time he was used and undermined by the list Clinton / Obama / Biden. Now he is getting revenge, he could step out and run for president the next round.

The Republicans are the party of Common sense. They know our voting laws and the history. The Democrats have lost their identity now they claim Democratic Socialist. They let millions of foreigners come across our border not knowing their back ground. They were going to make them voters. Our laws say no! They must be registered US Citizens. That is where we are at right now. What say you? tloury@att.net

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for May

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, April 24th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, April 29th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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Ask AI

Continued from page 1

including deepfakes and automated bot swarms, is increasingly used to manipulate voters, fuel political polarization, and create false, dangerous narratives about leaders. This technology can manufacture, accelerate, and spread false, inflammatory content, reducing trust in democratic institutions and potentially inciting violence against public officials.

I believe that is called Brain Washing! It is not good to Baker Act everyone who shows confusion. Baker Act stops them from living in society. I think there needs to be something in between like Mental Health help. They are not crazy they are confused by society. They are fed a bunch of lies to the point of breaking. Some times they just need someone to talk to. The new Approach that has been around for year communication between a health professional and the and a person in health crisis!

Standing in the Arena

Research on Standing in the Arena

Are you standing in the arena? Are you watching from the sidelines giving your opinion? Are you a doer or a doubter?

The Actors and the talk show host are entertainer's trying to tell the working people who you should vote for, they should be entertaining you but they cross the line when they tell you their real life opinion, they are make believers!

Remember they are entertaining you with make believe stories but yet they are voicing their opinion from from a news room making up stories. Headline hunter giving their opinion about Trump from a make believe world and if they say they back him they are black listed in their make believe world. I like to believe I'm standing in the arena and I am giving you a chance to voice your opinion in our newspaper without your name on it. In your letter don't call people or organizations names state your opinion with facts to my email and and I will protect your name and email from anyone trying to find out whose opinion I printed and sent to our readers. I have been bless by some very influential good writers. I honor them with all my heart. I honor them and pray they have a special place in heaven. Writing the true is not always easy, facing someone who does not agree is not easy!

Stand in the Arena with Trump, "He is our B'ridge over Troubled Waters" Remember that song this is true life. Don't back someone who is spewing hate and lies. You can't build a life on hate or lies Look what is happening in New York with Mandani . Weeks after he is sworn in the has broken one of the biggest promises of all time. He swore he was not taxing the middle class. I guess the New Yorkers are very gullible or uneducated, I did not want to use the words Stupid. It is the very heart of corrupt politics.

At 14 years old I was an junior orator in the optimist club and won a seat on the Oratory team and went to Cuba in 1956. My speech subject was "Freedom our most

precious Heritage. Battista was there and shook my hand. Just before Castro took over. There was machine gun nest set up in the door ways of all the municipal buildings.

In 1910 Roosevelt said this in his famous "Man in the Arena" speech, officially titled "Citizenship in a Republic," delivered at the Sorbonne in Paris. The quote emphasizes that credit belongs to those who actively strive and dare greatly, rather than critics on the

sidelines. "It's not critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better."

Remember this... Only God can take your breath away. Your body will continue to do its thing until it can't, so let your body continue to do its thing, until then ... "DO YOUR THING!"

"STAND IN THE ARENA WITH US!"
What is your opinion? tloury@att.net

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

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



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April 11, 2026

7:30 AM Registration
8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Limited team spots.
Registration Deadline: April 3

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LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

SEE MORE ABOUT PARKS & TRAILS IN LAKE COUNTY

<https://lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>

Apr 01 Meditation in the Garden Series
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Discovery Gardens in **Tavares**4/14/154/299/2 **Plus More**

Free outdoor meditation classes include guided group meditation on the lawn or quiet, self-guided reflection in a peaceful garden space of your choosing...

Apr 02 Maundy Thursday-the Seven Last Words of Christ

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

Join us for a powerful and reflective Maundy Thursday service as we remember Christ's final words from the cross through dramatic readings, sacred music...

Apr 02 Lake County Farmers Market

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lake County Fairgrounds in **Eustis**4/24/30

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to shop locally and support our amazing vendors!

Apr 03 Good Friday Chapel Open at First Presbyterian Mount Dora

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

On Good Friday, the chapel at First Presbyterian Church of Mount Dora will be open for quiet prayer and personal reflection.

Apr 04 Vintage Garden Show

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in **Mount Dora**4/44/5

Antique Center, Consignment, Street of Shops, The Stables, Pavilions, and Outdoors. Spring is here!

Apr 04 KLB Cleanup Guild - Quest for a Cleaner Lake County

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Haywood Farm Rd.- Okahumpka in **Leesburg**

Join the KLB Cleanup Guild each month to remove litter across Lake County. We will work as a group to clean our communities and protect our waterways

Apr 04 Town of Howey Annual Easter Egg Dash

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Central Park in **Howey-in-the-Hills**

The Town of Howey-in-the-Hills invites families to our Annual Easter Egg Dash. Bring the kids and enjoy a morning filled with springtime fun and family ...

Apr 04 TALK OF THE TOWN COMEDY SHOW

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Hideaway Performing Arts Theater in **Eustis**

Join us on Saturday, April 4th, in Eustis, FL, for an unforgettable evening of laughter! Doors open at 6:30 PM, and the show kicks off at 7:00 PM.

Apr 05 Easter Grand Brunch Buffet

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

Celebrate Easter with our Grand Brunch Buffet featuring chef carving stations, breakfast favorites, fresh seafood, savory entrées, and indulgent desserts...

Apr 05 Easter Sunday at First Presbyterian Mount Dora

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Celebrate Easter Sunday at First

Presbyterian Church of Mount Dora with joyful worship, inspiring music, and a message of hope as we celebrate Christ.

Apr 05 EASTER at First Presbyterian with The Orlando Brass

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in **Mount Dora**

Join us this Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with joyful worship, inspiring music, and a message of hope.

Apr 09 Springtime at Lake May

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake May Reserve in **Eustis**

Join staff and explore the habitats and species of Lake May Reserve.

Apr 10 Discover Leesburg

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in **Leesburg**4/105/86/127/10 **Plus More**

Join us every 2nd Friday evening of the month on Towne Square in Downtown Leesburg for an evening of entertainment, shopping, mouth-watering treats, and more

Apr 10 Mount Dora's Art in the Alley

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Royellou Lane in **Mount Dora**4/105/86/127/10 **Plus More**

Join us every 2nd Friday at 6 PM for an exciting evening featuring incredible local artists on Royellou Lane in historic downtown Mount Dora!

Apr 11 Florida Military Collector Show

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in **Mount Dora**4/117/1110/10

The Florida Military Collector Show is a one day event on Saturday. It is one of the largest all military collector shows in the South East.

Apr 12 Mount Dora Ice Cream Stroll and Pup Walk - Spring '26

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Downtown Mount

Dora in **Mount Dora**

Downtown Mount Dora turns into a sweet tasting trail during the Mount Dora Ice Cream Stroll & Pup Walk. Guests visit local businesses sampling 25 ice creams...

Apr 17 Stories of Water

10:00 AM Bourlay Historic Nature Park in **Leesburg**

Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Bourlay's Historic Nature Park. Hiking: Moderate. Limit 15 participants.

Apr 17 Ride the Cyclone

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Theatre South Playhouse in **Various**4/174/184/194/24

Six teens die in a freak coaster accident and are given one chance to return to life.

Apr 18 Plants and People

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

Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a region or culture utilize native plants. We invite you to come learn about some common uses of native plants.

Apr 18 Celebrate Our Earth Day!

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Community Medical Care Center in **Leesburg**

Free family event to celebrate Earth Day with the Blood Mobile Bus; Antique Car Show; sale of plants, baked goods & jewelry; raffle and an auction.

Apr 18 Afternoon Tea

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mission Resort + Club in **Howey-in-the-Hills**

Afternoon Tea is back! Join us Saturday, April 18 at 1 PM for a classic English tea experience featuring finger sandwiches, fresh scones

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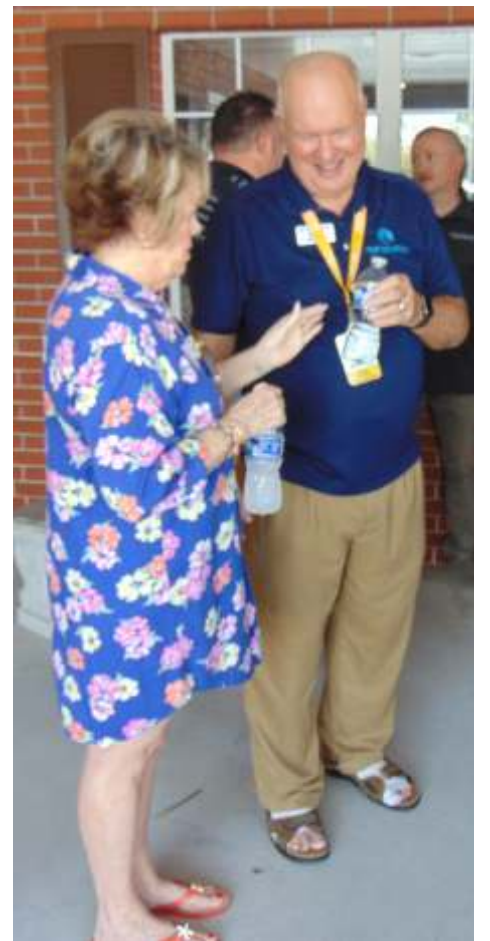
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LL Chamber Ribbon Cutting From page 1



LL Chamber Ribbon Cutting From page 1



Lady Lake
AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

**Lady Lake
Chamber**

Adult



APRIL

Lady Lake Library

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Friends of the Library Meeting April 27 @ 10 am Room 152 		APRIL FOL'S DAY! 		
ESL @10-11:30am Sign Up Required 6	Book Discussion @ 2-4pm 7	SHINE @2-3:30pm 8	9	Crochet Club @ 3:00-4:00 pm 10
ESL @10-11:30am Sign Up Required 13		Authors Round Table @ 2-4pm 15		Card Games with a Librarian: Playing: 'Swoop' Sign Up Required @3-4pm 17
ESL @10-11:30am Page Turners Book Club Reading: Landline by Rainbow Rowell @5:30pm 20	Stay Safe in the Digital Age: Using AI to protect yourself against scams Rm 219 @ 2-3pm 21	SHINE @2-3:30pm 22	Let's Talk Books @ 2pm 23	Apple Support iPhone, iPad, iMac @ 10:00-11:30am Movies at the Library! Showing: Wicked: For Good (PG) Rm 219 @ 3-5pm 24
ESL @10-11:30am Sign Up Required 27		Newspaper Reporter and True Crime Author Frank Stanfield presents... Murder in the Graveyard: A Family Cult Tragedy Rm 219 @ 2-3pm 29	BINGO @2-3:30pm sign up required 30	

Youth



APRIL

Lady Lake Library

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Storytime Egg Hunt 10:30am D&D with Grand Mage Miranda Grades 6-12 @3:30pm Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm 1	2	Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30am (up to 18 mos.) Bricks & Beyond @ 3:30-4:30pm 3
Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last. 6	Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm 7	Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm 8	9	Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Kid's Bingo! @3:30pm 10
Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last. 13	Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm 14	Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm 15	16	Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Pokemon Trading Event. Bring your Cards or Nintendo Switch! @3:30pm 17
Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last. 20	Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm 21	Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm 22	23	Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Video Games @3:30-4:30pm 24
Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last. 27	Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story!) @ 3:30pm 28	Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm 29	30	

Tree City

Continued from page 2

quality of life for residents.

"This recognition reflects the pride our community takes in preserving and enhancing Lady Lake's natural beauty," said Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske. "We are not only protecting our existing tree canopy, but also ensuring that future generations will continue to benefit from a greener Town."

Good Ole Boy's? Hometown Boy's?

Staff writer

What is the difference between a Good Ole Boy and a Hometown Boy!

Good ole Boys have tendency to group up have a popular head and be extremely kind to each other!.

The Home Town Boys will struggle finding something that will work in their town and try it!. They are extremely loyal to the young people they grew up with and will help them if they can.

They will support the town when they have events. They make money for their clubs and such. The Good Ole Boys will have planning meetings in the back room some where, only their group will be welcome and there always seems to be beer involved. Nothing seems to bother them outside of town. But don't get in their way if it says their town on it. The Southeastern Youth Fair is a good example they really endorse that with their money. They support sports especially football they don't usually care

about sharing money with the band. If you are not part of their group when you move into town it will take 20 years to get excepted!

If you are a Hometown boy that means you have a pretty good chance to survive in the town. If you start a business and they can afford it they will support it. The churches are good about supporting their members businesses.

I have two boys who have businesses in this area. One is business oriented, busy doing a second business. No time to play during business hours but takes his wife and Children on trips every month or two overnight. They wanted a certain location for the business and leased it almost a year before opening. They call it Dunnellon Coffee Company. They are now serving through a drive thru or sit down inside. The board of health says it is very clean! Hometown family owned.

I have another son who wants to farm him and his wife has cattle goats, riding horses, chickens & etc. our little piece of Marion County and is in the land services Loury's Land Service.

The company is not just a tree service but a land service that does it all. They will groom your trees clear your land the way you want, the employees are all hometown boys. The company prides itself with all John Deere equipment. They have a Bulldozer, 4 wheel drive tractor grapple & assorted equipment a skid steer with grapple, Escavator, trailer's to haul them with. Late 2025 model 4500 Dodge dually decked out w /tool boxes and chainsaws and Hand shovels. Most of the equipment is AC & heat so they don't have to cancel an appointment. This son and his wife have bought some building in Dunnellon

and are getting it ready for another business.

The owners Husband & wives both have other full time jobs!

Not much time for mom & dad. Thats OK they are making their mark and traveling through life.

I pray for all of them, their wives and our Grand children.

Good Luck Hometown Boys and your family!

Grandma and Grandpa said that.

Jackass and Elephant

Jackass says My name is Obstructionist Elephants name is Uncle Sam I'm known for my memory, strength and Grit!

The Asses name is Obstructionist.. He earn's his name every day. He is stubborn and kicks out at everyone.! Why would any group in their right mind have a Jack Ass as the cymbal of their political part? They just recently really started earning the name even more. The Socialist Communist Democratic Party? Obstructionist (the Asses) job is to Shut down the Government, Shut down Fema, shut down ICE, shut down the transportation (Airport) Shut down Home Land Security. The airports are still flying but at a snails pace and most are working free. Giving the taxpayer money to the illegals thru welfare and legal Americans can get it. Try to spread propaganda about our leaders in hopes they can win the election.

Obstruct the Republican Party and President Trump. They act like the evil

Continued page 16



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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Rep. Cammack Secures Major Florida Wins as Farm Bill Advances Out of Committee
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, following 25 hours of markup, the House Agriculture Committee passed

the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) with bipartisan support, advancing the long-awaited farm bill to the next stage of consideration.

Congresswoman Kat Cammack's (R-FL-03) top priorities were successfully secured in the bill, including major wins for Florida producer.

"For years, producers have been operating without the stability they need to plan and invest," said Cammack. "The farm bill is the backbone of American agriculture, food security, and rural communities. This legislation delivers meaningful improvements for Florida farmers and ensures our growers have the tools they need to recover, rebuild, and compete."

Cammack pointed to the toll hurricanes, flooding, and recent freezes have taken on Florida's specialty crops, citrus groves, berry farms, and nursery operations, noting the bill strengthens the agricultural safety net to reflect the realities growers face.

The legislation modernizes the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to cover trees and plants that are no longer economically productive after disasters, not just those destroyed. It also allows replanting flexibility, requires USDA decisions within 120 days, and authorizes upfront payments to help farmers recover faster.

The bill also establishes a Specialty Crop

Emergency Assistance Framework, calculating disaster assistance based on prior-year sales while accounting for higher production costs.

Cammack's Priorities Passed in H.R. 7567

All three of Rep. Cammack's top farm bill priorities were included in the legislation:

- AGI Reform: Farmers with at least 75% of income from agriculture can exceed the \$900,000 disaster payment cap.
- Citrus Research: Citrus greening research trust fund extended through 2031.
- Voluntary Base Acre Update: One-time update tied to 2019–2023 planting history beginning in 2026.

Key Florida Wins

Citrus & Tree Growers

- Upfront replanting assistance
- 120-day disaster decision deadline
- Flexible grove replanting

Specialty Crops

- Disaster and market disruption payments
- Aid based on real sales data
- Higher caps for full-time producers

Specialty Crop Programs (Through 2031)

- Block grants extended
- Producers help set state priorities
- Market News funding continued

Crop Insurance

- Stronger coordination for specialty crops
- Producer input on new policies

Additional Florida Wins

- Forestry and wood innovation investments
 - Expanded rural broadband
 - Federal sugar program protected
- Additional provisions in the legislation

expand rural broadband, strengthen agricultural research and innovation, modernize forestry programs, support specialty crop producers, and improve oversight of foreign purchases of U.S. agricultural land.

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 now heads to the House floor for consideration.

\$3.1 Billion in Agricultural Losses Devastate Crops Across the State after Historic Freeze

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins today at the U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters as the Secretary signed a disaster declaration for Florida counties impacted by this year's historic winter freeze, beginning the federal process to deliver relief to farmers suffering catastrophic losses.

The declaration comes after a bipartisan letter led by Rep. Cammack and signed by all 29 members of Florida's congressional delegation urging USDA to act quickly after freezing temperatures struck the state during peak harvest in late January and early February.

Several members of the Florida delegation attended the announcement, including

Reps. Scott Franklin, Byron Donalds, Neal Dunn, Randy Fine, Greg Steube, and Dan Webster, who each outlined the damage farmers in their districts are facing not only from the historic freeze but also from storms and drought conditions that have compounded challenges for Florida agriculture.

"On behalf of all of us, I can say it's incredibly refreshing to have a Secretary of Agriculture who is not only willing to listen, but willing to act," said Cammack. "Every single one of us in Florida has a district that's been affected by this freeze, which is why

today's declaration is so important."

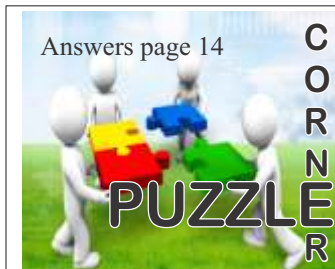
Preliminary estimates from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services place total agricultural losses at more than \$3.1 billion statewide, making it one of the most damaging freeze events in Florida agriculture in decades. The freeze hit a wide range of crops, including \$1.15 billion in sugarcane losses, \$674 million in citrus, \$307 million in strawberries, \$255 million in sweet corn, and \$240 million in greenhouse and nursery crops.

Cammack thanked Secretary Rollins for moving quickly on the disaster declaration and recognized the leadership of Florida Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, along with the rapid work of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and Florida producers who quickly conducted economic damage assessments that helped federal officials understand the scale of the disaster.

"Florida is one of the most diverse agricultural states in the country, with more than 300 commodities, massive cow-calf operations, aquaculture, and more," Cammack said. "When I was traveling across the state meeting with producers ahead of the Farm Bill, the freeze had just happened, and the devastation was already clear."

"This freeze didn't just damage one crop or one season," Cammack continued. "We are seeing total losses in some areas, including sugar and blueberries, and for crops like citrus and blueberries those trees and bushes won't be productive for three or four years. That means farmers could be facing years of impacts and full replacement of their operations."

The disaster declaration begins the federal process that will make relief programs available to impacted agricultural producers as they work to recover from the devastating freeze.



- Answers page 14
- Across**
- Suspended curtain
 - Cripples
 - Honk
 - Like some streets
 - WWII hero-turned-actor Murphy
 - Green-eyed monster
 - Brazil has the world's largest
 - Potato soup addition, sometimes
 - Where James Bowie passed
 - Cruising, perhaps
 - Mussolini's money
 - Hot spot
 - Fiery little workers?
 - Just about
 - Shoemaker's storybook helper
 - Throng
 - Taro dish
 - Saintly attributes
 - Tune

- Some wrapping material
 - eBay address
 - Ruckus
 - Motherly injunction
 - Pancake-like fish
 - Writer Fleming
 - Going to the bank, e.g.
 - Leather workers
 - Start a round
 - A substitute?
 - When the curtain rises
 - Cacoëthes
 - Something hysterical
 - Unite
 - It's found among the reeds
 - Museum suit
 - Bunch of feathers
 - It has its highs and lows
 - Shorthanded worker?
 - British pianist Myra
 - Blab
 - A quarter
 - Hard to miss
 - Kiddies
 - Driver's shout
 - Hoglike rhino relative
 - Transaction
 - Opie or Richie
 - Military careerist
 - Funny Bernie
 - Iraqi resource
 - Meal for the mind
 - Try to swat
 - Prohibition, e.g.
 - The Family Stone leader
 - Voice quality
 - Row the boat
 - Plant-eating mammal
 - Accompany
 - Animated film star
 - Scarcity
 - Mystic's card
 - Grafton's A
 - Indian princes
 - Way to enter
 - Vassals' lands
 - Admits nothing?
 - Popular reading since 1923
 - Being part of
 - Way to swing
- Down**
- Instrument for I. Perlman
 - Killer, e.g.
 - Sills selections
 - Oater extras
 - Hua's predecessor
 - Mystique
 - Middle-of-the-month date, once
 - Company lover?
 - Plant bristles

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FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE



Attorney General James Uthmeier Launches Investigation into Discord over Child Safety Concerns

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier opened a civil investigation and

subpoenaed Discord, a popular online chat platform. The subpoena demands documents and information related to the platform's practices in marketing to children, enforcing age-verification requirements, content moderation, parental control features, and reporting of exploitative activity.

"Many of our criminal investigations into internet child predators lead to one place: Discord," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Groomers and predators seem to believe that they can get away with targeting children on Discord—and we are going to find out why. Discord owes us an explanation on the overwhelming use of its platform among predators, and what they are doing to protect children."

"Investigations show that offenders are using platforms like Roblox and Discord as an access point to reach children. Parents should know we are taking this seriously," said Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt A. Hoffman. "My message is clear, we are committed to protecting our kids, and predators have no safe place in our

community. If you exploit children, we will find you, arrest you, and hold you accountable."

Discord is widely used for online communication via messaging, audio, and video calls. The platform has increasingly been identified as a service that predators use to communicate with children and distribute and collect child sexual abuse material.

There have been many concerning reports indicating that predators initially contact minors on other platforms, including video games like Roblox and Fortnite, and then encourage them to move communications to Discord, which may be due to insufficient protections for children.

The subpoena seeks information and documents regarding Discord's practices in safeguarding children from being exposed to harmful content and being targeted by child predators. The filing suggests that Discord has potentially violated Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Attorney General Uthmeier is demanding Discord produce documents, including, but not limited to:

- Marketing and promotional materials that represent the platform's safety, suitability, and appropriateness for children.
- Documents relating to the marketing of Discord directly to children.
- Procedures relating to content and communication moderation.
- Records of complaints alleging exploitation, and records of responsive

steps taken.

- Documents describing age-verification processes and parent control features.
- Records of criminal cases involving children.
- Data on how many children are utilizing the platform.

This investigation is part of Attorney General Uthmeier's effort to investigate and bring accountability for the exploitative environment that has been created for children on social media websites and gaming platforms.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces One Hundred Criminal Charges for Predator Arrested in Seminole County

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the arrest of Blake McKinniss, 37, of Sanford. McKinniss faces 53 Counts of possession of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), 46 counts of possessing AI-generated CSAM, and one count of possessing a child-like sex doll. During a search of his house, law enforcement found a bedroom decorated for a little girl, even though no children lived there.

"Law enforcement and prosecutors walked into a house of horrors upon executing this search warrant," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "This guy could spend the rest of his life in prison, and I'm grateful our team worked to ensure he never has access to our kids. I also thank Representative Plakon for supporting legislation to keep convicted predators away from children."

"I am honored to work alongside my

fellow legislators to protect Florida's children from those who exploit them through harmful materials," said Representative Rachel Plakon. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Attorney General and our dedicated law enforcement agencies for their relentless efforts in enforcing these critical laws."

"FDLE remains steadfast in our mission to protect our most vulnerable from those who seek to harm them," said FDLE Special Agent in Charge Felipe Williams. "Our agents and law enforcement partners work every day to identify and remove dangerous predators from our communities. We have kept our word: if you think you can prey on our children, you are wrong. We will continue working with our partners and with Attorney General Uthmeier's team to ensure offenders are found and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The investigation began January 27, 2026, when the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The tip reported a user prompting the creation of CSAM using AI. The IP address led to McKinniss.

On March 9, 2026, FDLE executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence, where investigators located numerous files depicting CSAM on electronic devices belonging to McKinniss. Additionally, investigators found that McKinniss had children's bedrooms decorated, despite not being a parent. In these bedrooms, law enforcement found massive amounts of sexual paraphernalia, including child-like sex dolls, as well as children's toys and clothing.

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Legislation to Protect Florida's Coasts

BRADENTON, Fla. — Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed two pieces of legislation aimed at protecting

Florida's coasts and strengthening coastal resilience and restoration efforts. The governor also announced plans to reopen the Sunshine Skyway fishing piers following reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. "My administration has delivered historic investments to protect Florida's 1,300 miles of coastline," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Today, I signed legislation to preserve the Terra Ceia Bay and to build on our work to promote coastal resiliency and water quality statewide. We are committed to protecting Florida's environment for future generations to enjoy." "Protecting Florida's environment has been a top priority of the DeSantis Administration from day one," said Florida Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. "House Bill 1417 streamlines processes so the department can carry out its mission more efficiently while maintaining strong environmental protections, including ratifying a rule to restore the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee rivers and their priority springs. Along with Senate Bill 302, which strengthens protections for the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve and supports nature-based solutions to improve coastal resilience, these bills help ensure Florida's natural resources remain strong for generations to come."

"Thank you Governor DeSantis for taking swift action to sign this legislation into law," said Senate Majority Leader Jim Boyd. "My amendment is a small part of this broader bill to strengthen coastal resiliency, but it will have a big impact on this region for decades to come. When a recent proposal threatened the future of the islands and coastlines that border the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, I made a commitment to stop it. With this bill now signed into law, this region, the precious coastlines, pristine waters and wildlife habitats are effectively protected from massive transformations that would have destroyed them. Since I was a teen, I have explored these natural treasures, and now future generations will have the opportunity to see, enjoy and love the Terra Ceia we know today."

"Florida's natural resources are central to our economy, our way of life, and our future," said Representative Will Robinson. "This legislation takes historic steps toward environmental protection and resiliency, ensuring that our coastal communities stay strong, our waters stay clean, and our state is preserved for generations to come. I want to thank Governor DeSantis for signing this important legislation and for all the work he has done to conserve our state's natural habitats."

Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 302 and House Bill 1417 into law.

Senate Bill 302 protects the *Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve* by prohibiting the dredging or filling of submerged lands, allowing for passive recreational fishing and boating rather than commercial transportation in these sensitive waters. The legislation ensures that any future changes to the preserve must go through a transparent, state-level approval process. It also strengthens Florida's coastal resiliency by expanding the use of nature-based solutions to rehabilitate wetlands, restore oyster reefs, and increase the mangroves along the Florida peninsula. In addition, the bill streamlines permitting, accelerates restoration timelines, and enables the use of new technologies to enhance coastal protection efforts. Together, these measures safeguard vulnerable habitats, reduce erosion and storm surge risks, and preserve Florida's natural coastline.

House Bill 1417 streamlines environmental rulemaking by repealing the outdated Environmental Regulation Commission making it faster to update rules to protect our environment and keep our economy thriving. It also ratifies rules to ensure sufficient water supply along the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers, vital water resources for our North Florida communities. Finally, the bill makes certain that stormwater management around solar fields is rigorous to protect both the environment and adjacent property owners.

Governor DeSantis also announced updates to *Florida's Sunshine Skyway fishing piers*, letting Floridians know that reconstruction and renewal projects on the north and south piers are now underway. A new pier will be built on the Manatee County side, and the existing Pinellas County side will be improved and extended. Early work includes enhancements to parking areas and the addition of wider sidewalks along the seawall to improve access and safety.

MILESTONE: More Than 10,000 Bonuses of \$5,000 Awarded to New Law Enforcement Recruits

NAPLES, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida has reached the milestone of more than 10,000 bonuses awarded through the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program. Launched in 2022, this first-of-its-kind initiative underscores Florida's commitment to supporting Florida law enforcement officers. The latest round of bonuses—totaling more than \$5 million—went to 744 officers across the state.

"Today in Naples, I was proud to announce a milestone for Florida's Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program: More than 10,000 bonus payments of \$5,000 after-tax have now been distributed to law enforcement personnel across our state," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "Many of these new recruits have relocated to Florida from states where law enforcement has been defunded or demoralized by radical political agendas. We're fortunate to have them here, and Floridians are grateful for their service every day."

"This milestone of more than 10,000 recruitment bonuses is a tremendous achievement for our state and the dedicated

men and women who choose to protect our communities," said Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly. "Thanks to Governor DeSantis' leadership, these bonuses not only help our new officers and their families get settled, but they also strengthen our neighborhoods, improve public safety and support the long-term well-being of communities throughout Florida."

The program provides a one-time \$5,000 bonus—after taxes—to newly relocated and employed officers as a show of appreciation and incentive for choosing to serve in Florida. Each of the more than 10,000 newly recruited officers has received a \$5,000 bonus after taxes, with the program distributing more than \$67.9 million to date.

The bonuses are part of a broader initiative to solidify Florida's position as the Nation's law-and-order state. Under the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, [the Governor secured \\$49 million in pay increases](#) for more than 16,200 state sworn law enforcement officers, raised the minimum base pay to \$60,000, and provided significant raises for both entry-level and veteran officers—10% and 15% increases, respectively. The state has also expanded wellness resources, enhanced penalties for crimes against officers, introduced law enforcement education programs in high schools, and launched the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover training costs for new recruits.

In addition to a \$5,000 recruitment bonus, benefits of becoming a Florida law enforcement officer include financial stability, upward mobility, excellent health and retirement benefits, student loan forgiveness programs, home loan programs, and more.

For more information about the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment,

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Texas Roadhouse Grill Referral Luncheon

The Lady Lake referral luncheon was a great success. In March it was at the Texas Roadhouse Grill and it was move earlier by one week to avoid conflict with Billy Berg Mac & Cheese event. As

you can see by the pictures there was plenty of door prizes. Lot's of business information and ideas were shared.



Jackass & Elephant

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dictators do. They let all those millions of criminals come into our country in an effort to make them voters. They are not United States Citizens. They cannot vote! When people any people come across our border without permission they come under a criminal act of illegal entry! A warrant should be sworn out right away and pick them up and charge them and deport them. When they are arrested that makes them ineligible to enter this country ever again.

They have not constructed anything in years without abusing their tax payers. They are abusing Americans by allowing our money to be stolen and given to the enemy! The Tax payers are eating peanut butter and jelly while the criminals are living a life of luxury with our tax money.

Now I can understand the Elephant's name Uncle Sam who has an Grit, excellent memory and is very strong and can carry loads that no one else can carry. He can stomp on his enemies and move on to the next project. Elephants protect their young with violent behavior. They are super intelligent and can plan his next move. The

herd, when threatened move together to fight or protect young and the herd. The animal is a good choice for the Republican Party.

Every President that I can remember for 47 years has been afraid of Iran and their promise to blow them up. For all those 47 years they have been saying Death to the USA and death to Israel. They have even killed some of our people. Still no repercussions. Now it's death to Trump and death to Netanyahu. Who in their right mind says that. Now bragging about having contracts out to kill our leaders they are all of their leaders are dead. There is no one left to talk peace with. The people of Iran need to

take over and form their own new government, start by talking peace and unity. They need to rebuild their country, organize the pumping of oil and protect their right to have it. Use some of the money to make their economy better for the people. I keep hearing they have an underground city. FLOOD IT WITH SALT WATER OR OIL! Put a hundred huge water pumps in place and get it done. Blow up the desalination plants they have no fresh water to drink. It would not cost anything for ammunition. Put bombers in the sky and every time you see bubbles drop a bomb.

The World is in pause! What is next?

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