

Mac & Cheese Booth Prize



Last Month we had missed a picture of the Best Booth at the Cheese Festival we missed a picture of the best Booth it was the IDW "The Big Cheese Best Booth"



Hotel Eastport held Lady Lake Area Chamber After Hours

Water Conservation Poster Contest



Students from The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake were honored for their work in Lady Lakes annual Water Conservation Poster Contest during the Town Commission meeting. This year's theme was "How I can save water for my future?" Participants included students in kindergarten through fifth grade, as well as ESE students, with 18 winners selected by

a panel of judges including Lady Lake Commissioners and members of the Town's Water Conservation Committee.

Photo Caption: Left to right - Tracy L Hauserman of Surface Water Professionals, Commissioner Ed Regan, Mayor Ed Freeman, student Rosalina Licari, Mayor Pro Tem Treva Roberts, and Commissioner Amanda McLea.

Continued page 2

feedback from last year, we're excited to grow this event and welcome even more families," said Amy Alicea, Events Coordinator for the Town of Lady Lake.

"By adding father-daughter teams, we're creating more opportunities for families to connect, compete and enjoy a fun day together in our parks."

Continued page 2

Do the Democrats Really Hate the American People?

Do the Democrats really hate the American people? I don't think so, but they are being made out to be fools by the communist party! Bernie Sanders to be more exact! Him, the squad which he created and some very wealthy people are influencing young ambitious college students / politicians and out of the country effluence that Democratic Communism is the way to go. Here is what will happen...They tax the rich, the rich move away to Florida or Texas. Florida become wealthier and the poor get poorer. NY has to pay their own taxes. The Democrats that remember what they stood for just a few years ago are saying please go back to the middle! They need to take it back to the

middle, is it to late, the only thing they can do is go independent or change to a different thinking! I don't think that is going to happen. They have allowed the Communist to take over their party. Killing someone is not the answer. It will not change the actions of the Republican Party!

Buuuuut the Republicans have the vote but people like Ran Paul can't agree with anything, because they want to control or run the country, so they obstruct putting something in the way of progress. I don't care if you don't like the way Trump talks he is your president elected by the people you represent! The only way America can be great and stay great is UNITED & Stay UNITED!

Annual "Survivor" Event

Town of Lady Lake Expands Annual "Survivor" Event to Include Fathers and Daughters

LADY LAKE – The Town of Lady Lake is bringing back one of its most exciting family events with a new twist. The third annual Survivor challenge returns on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Snooky Park, 120 W. Lady Lake Blvd., now welcoming both mother-son and father-

daughter teams to compete.

This expanded edition invites even more families to take part in a day of action-packed fun inspired by the hit television show Survivor. Teams will test their skills through a series of engaging, age-appropriate challenges designed to encourage teamwork, friendly competition, and lasting memories.

"After such a strong turnout and positive

Town News Lake County Events

Water Conservation

Continued from page 1



Left to right – Commissioner Ed Regan, Mayor Ed Freeman, student Freya, Rager, Mayor Pro Tem Treva Roberts, and Commissioner Amanda McLea.

Survivor Event

Continued from page 1

Participants will outwit, outplay, and outlast through a variety of games, with challenges also organized by age group to ensure everyone can join in the fun. Mothers and sons and fathers and daughters will face off against similar teams and not compete against each other.

Each ticket includes picnic-style food and the opportunity to win prizes throughout the event. Call 352-205-2826

Man Fleeting Traffic Stop Arrested

Lady Lake Police arrest man after fleeting traffic stop attempt

The Lady Lake Police Department arrested a man March 29 after he fled from officers following a traffic stop attempt.

Officers were alerted around 4:34 p.m. to a license plate reader hit on a white Chevrolet Suburban traveling on U.S. Highway 27/441. A records check showed the vehicle's owner, Bradley Seymour, 51 had active warrants in Lake County.

An officer located the vehicle a short time later and attempted a traffic stop. The driver did not stop and continued driving through multiple streets in Lady Lake, at times operating the vehicle in a reckless manner. During the incident, the vehicle left the roadway and entered private property, coming close to a bystander, before continuing through a hotel parking lot and back onto U.S. Highway 27/441.

Lake County Sheriff's Office deputies deployed tire deflation devices, which the vehicle struck. Officers saw a tire fly off the car and smelled burnt rubber as it slowed to a stop near 625 First Ave., where the driver got

out and ran. Officers apprehended him near a fence line.

Seymour was charged with fleeing with disregard for public safety, reckless driving and resisting an officer without violence. He was taken to a local hospital for evaluation and later transported to the Lake County Jail.

"This arrest shows how technology and teamwork come together to keep our community safe," Police Chief Steve Hunt said. "Our officers remained focused on protecting the public while safely taking a wanted individual into custody."

Guilty Verdict in Child Sexual Assault

Lady Lake Police Department announces guilty verdict in child sexual assault case

LADY LAKE — A jury has found Andrew Mikal Harris guilty on multiple charges following a Lady Lake Police Department investigation involving sexual offenses against children.

On April 1, 2026, Harris was convicted in Lake County Court of four counts of lewd and lascivious molestation of a child under the age of 12, two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation, and two counts of lewd and lascivious exhibition. Harris has remained in custody without bond since his arrest on Aug. 8, 2024, which stemmed from an investigation the Lady Lake Police Department conducted. The case involved three juvenile victims who reported repeated incidents over several years, with the most recent occurring in early August 2024.

According to Lady Lake Police investigators, the victims disclosed the abuse to officers, prompting an immediate response and investigation. Detectives

contacted Harris at his residence in Lady Lake, where he was detained and interviewed. During the interview, after being advised of his rights, Harris admitted to multiple incidents consistent with the victims' statements. Harris, who was 27 at the time of his arrest, was taken into custody and transported to the Lake County Jail.

The investigation was led by Lady Lake Police Department personnel, with continued follow-up that helped build the case for prosecution. Officer Erica Hall, along with Cpl. Andru Eckerdt and Cpl. Amanda Hayes worked the investigation and Assistant State Attorney Shannon Schlarf prosecuted the case.

"Our officers and investigators worked diligently to ensure these victims were heard and protected," said Steve Hunt. "This outcome reflects the strength of their work and our commitment to holding offenders accountable while supporting victims through the process."

Four of Harris's convictions carry a minimum sentence of 15 years to life, while the remaining four convictions carry a minimum sentence of 25 years to life. He remains in custody pending sentencing, which will be scheduled at a later date.

- 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)

FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitive

Lady Lake Police Department Arrests FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitive

LADY LAKE - The Lady Lake Police Department is proud to announce the arrest of Donald Eugene Fields II, one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives. Fields II was apprehended Saturday, Jan. 25, following a routine traffic stop conducted by Lady Lake Police Sgt. Michelle Bilbrey. The arrest took place at approximately 9:15 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. Highway 27/441 and Rolling Acres Road.

Sgt. Bilbrey discovered that the vehicle's license plate was not registered to the car Fields was driving. This proactive policing effort resulted in the identification and capture of Fields, who is facing federal charges of child sex trafficking and state charges of child rape. Fields had been added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in May 2023.

Lady Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt commended Sgt. Bilbrey and the department for outstanding work. "Sometimes, an everyday traffic stop turns into a real game-changer. This is a reminder that every officer, every day, is out there making a real difference," said Chief Hunt. "Every traffic stop is an opportunity for justice. What starts as a routine encounter can quickly turn into a pivotal moment, where an officer's sharp instincts and dedication to service lead to a significant arrest—keeping our community and in this case, the nation, safer."

The FBI also praised the efforts of the Lady Lake Police Department. Special Agent in Charge Ashley Johnson remarked, "Thanks to proactive policing by the Lady Lake Police Department, one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted fugitives has been captured." Chief Hunt, an FBI National Academy graduate, expressed his gratitude for the ongoing collaboration between the FBI and local law enforcement.

Fields, 60, was federally indicted in St.

Continued page 3

Shred It & Forget It!

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

Arbor Day at Tree City



The Town of Lady Lake is proud to celebrate National Arbor Day!

At this week's Town Commission meeting, Mayor Ed Freeman presented the National Arbor Day proclamation to Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske, recognizing the vital role trees play in keeping our community healthy, beautiful and thriving.

Trees provide cleaner air, cooler temperatures, wildlife habitat, erosion

protection and lasting beauty throughout Lady Lake. They also enhance property values and contribute to the character that makes our town so special.

Residents are encouraged to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands—and to plant trees that will benefit generations to come.

Together, we can continue growing a greener, healthier Lady Lake!

FBI's Top Ten

Continued from page 2

Louis on Dec. 7, 2023, for attempting to recruit and exploit a minor for commercial sex acts between January 2013 and June 2017. He also faces state charges in Missouri, including statutory rape, statutory sodomy, child molestation, and witness tampering. Fields has been a fugitive since March 2022 when he failed to appear for a court hearing in Franklin County, Missouri.

Following his arrest, Fields will be scheduled to make his first appearance in federal court in Florida.

The Lady Lake Police Department remains committed to serving and protecting our community while supporting efforts to hold offenders accountable for their actions. This arrest underscores the importance of vigilance and dedication in everyday policing.

Letter to the Editor

What happened during President Trump's State of the Union earlier this year is something I cannot get out of my head.

President Trump stood before that chamber and said the first duty of the United States government is to protect American citizens NOT ILLEGAL ALIENS

I was on my feet before the President finished the sentence. Every Republican stood with him.

Not one Democrat moved. WHAT A SHAME!

They sat in silence while the President declared that American citizens deserve to be protected in their own country. They could not bring themselves to stand!

I will never forget that image — and I do not think you should either.

Another image I can't forget is when the President was shot he was holding his fist up an hollering fight fight fight! There is still an investigation on how the guy was allowed to get on the roof, other things have come up the same guy was stopped earlier one something and let go?????

That was among my images for ever!

Green Cards Revoked

Secretary of State Marco Rubio revoked green cards of Hamideh Soleimani Afshar and her daughter, both relatives of the killed IRGC chief Qassem Soleimani, with ICE arresting them in Los Angeles for deportation

At least four Iranian nationals with ties to current or former Tehran government officials have lost their U.S. residency or visa privileges amid ongoing U.S.-Iran tensions

State Department cited public support for the Iranian regime and anti-American rhetoric, including calling the U.S. the "Great Satan," as grounds for visa ineligibility

Iranian diaspora advocates celebrate the action as a "major win" after years of pushing for accountability against regime supporters living lavishly in America

Letter to the Commissioners

Letter to the Board of County Commissioners / the Governor and the President!

The same people who are making our taxes go up want us to give them money to help them get re-elected! Actually I receive at least 10 request to donate my money or space in my newspaper or usually both every day You people running the country and the state and the county have ask to much!

It is getting close to the point our mortgage insurance will be more than our mortgage payment. Does that sound right? Do you the people in Florida and Marion County thinks that right? Our insurance payments are going up \$1200 minimum every year, year after year, same house same property. If you don't have a claim on the insurance the company gets even fatter and makes more profit gets happy and bigger. Does the county want us to sell our homes and leave the county we love? I really don't think they intend that and may not realize how bad it is getting. Their pay scale is a lot bigger than most of us! We need some relief here, most people don't beg for the county to devalue their house, but if you have lived in the same place and paid your taxes here for a long time, it is your home and it should be protected by your Board of County Commissioners! Protect you the America tax payers. I have been paying taxes in Marion County for 56 years. I hope to see the tax's go down and reduce the insurance bill's, instead it has tripled. The American Dream is to get a job meet the love of your life, buy a house and live in the county all your life!

Governor DeSantis said he will have a vote on the ballot to stop County taxes and that would drop the insurance bill. Don't let them tell you it is not good! The long time Marion County residents should not have to pay for the infrastructure that the new comers will enjoy.

Lower our taxes and lower our mortgage insurance, lower car insurance & Healthcare insurance.

Stop dangling a carrot to get elected and MAKE IT HAPPEN!

TomL

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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



Not sure how true it is...Information from the web says:

Mounting evidence suggests that the kidnapping of Savannah Guthrie's mother in Arizona may be linked to a violent Mexican drug cartel. An anonymous

tipster reported seeing the kidnapped senior in Mexico. They demanded a ransom in Bitcoin for information leading to her return. The Guthrie family fears the worst due to the drug cartels' reputation for torture and abuse of hostages. Experts cite past cases of brutal treatment and high mortality rates among victims.

A different sighting (Not True bloody fingerprint found)

Unvarified mounting evidence points to a terrifying conclusion: the tragic kidnapping of Today host Savannah Guthrie's ailing 84-year-old mother in Arizona bears the bloody

fingerprints of a violent Mexican drug cartel member, sources say. The possibility emerged three weeks after Nancy Guthrie was taken from her home outside of Tucson when an anonymous tipster reached out to an entertainment news outlet via email to report a sighting of the snatched senior in Mexico.

Tipster said: "I know what I saw south of the border," the tipster wrote in the last of four emails received by the outlet. "I was told to shut up, so I know who he is, and that was definitely Nancy with them." There is no Democratic Party as there used to be! They are politicians lying, obstructing, and anarchists.

Publishers Question: I wonder if the cartels have her maybe in a Mexican hospital under an assumed name sedated? The hospital is one place I have not heard that they have looked extensively.

We have taken revenue from the cartel, so maybe they are trying to get even.

I ask AI and it bounces me around to different places on the web. Savannah

Guthrie a news caster and co-host may have a problem from putting to much pressure on them???

SOME DAY: The truth will come out. The FBI might know the truth and have to stay silent until they find her.

Jacky Gleason in the series from the past said TO THE MOONALICE!

Jacky Gleason used that as a description of where he was going to send his wife when he got mad at her. They were funny! That was a show that would make you laugh. Speaking of to the moon: Astronaut's and where they lived. We had an Astronaut living and working in Dunnellon Florida. He taught middle school Science and Math was married to Lora who had children. He was chosen for the Astronaut team as an Educator / Geologist & Hydrologist. He was from Puerto Rico, he was the first person of Caribbean descent.

Joseph Acaba was born of Ralph and Elisa Acaba. He was a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He was a dedicated to teaching over 300 teachers in Puerto Rico the modern teaching Methodologies. It's a small solar system! Acaba left Dunnellon when he was chosen for the Astronaut team. He still works for NASA.

All these big companies do it. Is it legal? I don't know! When Space X builds a rocket the parts cost one Million to build. When they get finished they have a rocket valued Five million. They have just added four million dollar profit.

How about county taxes. You have a house worth \$150,000, in 2023, in 2024 they reevaluate the house to \$250,000. The county gets to tax you for \$100,000 more or probably \$100 dollar per month on your value. The insurance company says your house is now worth \$250,000, we need to insure it for the replacement value your insurance payment on your Mortgage goes up \$100 per month \$1200 dollars a year. WAIT it is now 2026 and the county does it again. So they have just added another \$100 per month in taxes and your house insurance. That is \$2400 per year in two years on your house insurance and plus another increase on the taxes. SENIORS BEWARE! They are going to raise your taxes again if we don't vote it down.

DeSantis said it would be on the next ballot. VOTE TO STOP County Taxes, bring the values back to reality so the insurance companies can no longer make large profits on us.

How about the Villages, they squeeze a farmer off his property, Pay him the true value if necessary. Now they send a plan to the County and they see all the roads to be built that they don't have to pay for. They approve the expansion if they paid \$20,000 per acre the lots are valued at \$20,000 just by drawing a plan. They float a bond and start building. They build the house they want to build and let the buyer change it to what they want after built at extra charge. Everybody is happy. The Villages hires three or four developers give them an idea of what their expectations are. With that many builders they can probably finish two house a day. If one builder put up four or more houses, they send in the dry wallers and they do four house, or six houses.

If some in a city complains and they call a meeting to discuss it they send out a message to the employees fill up the meeting room early and the city residents can't into their own meeting. Strength through size.

A farmer named Farnsworth stopped the building for a short time. He sue them. They went to court and when they came out they had a gag order on them. They could not give me a story. They actually won but could not tell anyone. Farnsworth sold his land to them and moved to Tennessee. He sent me a picture of him and his grandson in a horse drawn cart, just living the life.

THAT IS HOW BIG BUSINESS WORKS! The tax payer always loses.

To close on this issue the mortgage insurance in Marion county will over take what you are paying for your mortgage.

Well the news media did it again. The new ball room project includes a 90,000-square-foot ballroom and an **underground bunker on the former East Wing site**, the largest White House change in over 70 years.

Colorado officials just confirmed the **removal of 372,000 ineligible voter names** from their state's voter registration lists following a **Judicial Watch** lawsuit and legal settlement.

Don't be discouraged if you are the little guy, we are powerful in numbers!

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for June

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, May 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, May 27th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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FAIRTAX



Missouri is the most recent state in the process of eliminating their state income tax

and replacing it with a sales tax. An amendment to their state constitution has passed the House and has advanced to the state Senate.

State Representative Bishop Davidson presented the tax plan to the House calling the in-come tax “the least fair tax” that “undermines economic growth.” “When you tax income,” Davidson said, “we tax productivity. We tax creativity.”

State legislators in Missouri are looking at Florida and other states without a state income tax and seeing their economic expansion. They understand that the state income tax is a disincentive for people and businesses to come to Missouri.

There is a growing understanding in our country that we have been burdened for far too long by the income tax at both the state and national level. People are seeking more freedom to make their own decisions and one of those decisions is how much tax they pay. A sales tax on new goods and services is much more stable when the state or national economy is in flux and inflation rises and ebbs. Just think how nice it would be to eliminate filing cumbersome and confusing tax forms.

In addition, a sales tax is visible and not hidden like the income tax.

More states should and are in the process of removing the state income tax. We need to also abolish the income tax on the national level and put the IRS on the scrap heap of history. The FAIRtax is the answer.

For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

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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

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

May 01 First Friday

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Downtown Eustis in Eustis

Each month, the City of Eustis hosts a family-friendly street party, featuring a variety of food, vendors and live music.

May 02 25th Annual Mount Dora Taste

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Sunset Park in Mount Dora

Celebrate the 25th Annual Mount Dora Taste at Sunset Park on May 2. Enjoy bites from 20+ local restaurants, live music, and vote in the People's Choice ...

May 02 Butterfly Release

10:15 AM - 12:00 PM W.T. Bland Public Library in Mount Dora

All ages are invited to our annual butterfly release, held in the Nunan Butterfly Garden. 10:15 AM - Refreshments for all in the Garden, 10:35 AM -

May 07 National Day of Prayer at First Presbyterian

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM First Presbyterian Church Mount Dora in Mount Dora

Join us for personal and guided prayer as we unite in seeking God for our nation, community, and future generations. All are welcome to come and pray

May 08 Discover Leesburg

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg

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

May 08 Mount Dora's Art in the Alley

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Royellou Lane in Mount Dora

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

May 08 Shoreline and Wetland Plants

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake May Reserve in Leesburg

Hike with staff while learning about some of our shoreline and wetland plant species.

May 09 Global Big Day

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM Green Mountain Scenic Overlook & Trailhead in Minneola

Join Parks & Trails Staff in counting birds for the Cornell University's eBird Global Big Day in which birders from around the world

May 10 Guitars and Cars

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora

Guitars(Big Al's Lake County Musicians Swapmeet) Buy-Sell-Trade Tons of great gear and deals Central Florida Blues Lovers' Jam at noon

May 10 Mother's Day Grand Brunch Buffet 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Mission Resort + Club in Howey-in-the-Hills

Celebrate Mom with our Mother's Day Grand Brunch Buffet. Indulge in chef carving stations, fresh seafood, brunch favorites, and decadent desserts.

May 15 Spring Yard Sale

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora

Don't miss Renninger's Spring Yard Sale. Clean out your unwanted items and sell them at this show. Antique Center. Flea Market (Saturday and Sunday). ...

May 16 The Habits and Natural History of Snakes

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

Venture into the realm of snakes and a discussion with park staff about the different habitats and natural history of venomous and non-venomous snakes.

May 16 Plant America in Chautauqua Park

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Chautauqua Park in Mount Dora

Join KLB and the Lake & Hills Garden Club for a planting event at Chautauqua Park in Mount Dora as we prepare for America's 250th anniversary

May 17 So Funny Sundays Live Recording

3:30 PM - 7:00 PM Hideaway Performing Arts Theater in Eustis

So Funny Sundays Live Recording ?? May 17, 2026 at Hideaway Performing Arts

Center. Doors 3:30PM, show 4PM. Hosted by James Yon & JDafunnyMan, headlines

May 23 City of Leesburg's Memorial Day Program

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Veteran Memorial Park in Leesburg

Join us for a solemn and meaningful morning of remembrance at our Memorial Day Program, held in honor of the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice

May 23 Classical Music Concert featuring Violinist Qing Li and Pianist Victor Santiago Ascuncion

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM W.T. Bland Public Library in Mount Dora

The Piatigorsky Foundation in partnership with the library present a classical music concert featuring Violinist Qing Li and Pianist Victor Santiago Ascuncion

May 23 SPRAYGROUND - AN URBAN ART EXPERIENCE

6:00 PM - 3:00 PM Mount Dora Center for the Arts - Uptown Gallery in Mount Dora

Mount Dora Center for the Arts presents the opening reception for SPRAYGROUND, a collaborative exhibition featuring a group of artists

May 23 Afternoon Tea

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

Join us for an elegant, traditional English tea featuring a thoughtfully curated menu of classic finger sandwiches, vegetable spring rolls, and more

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LL Chamber Luncheon

The Lady Lake Chamber April business luncheon was held at Grandview Country Club. As you can see by the pictures there were many door prizes. About 50 members attended. Attending businesses help meet new people in business and

learn more about others businesses, so they can refer them to a friend or a future customer. The food and service is always great at Grandview Country Club.



**Lady Lake
Area
Chamber**



Lady Lake
AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

LL Chamber Luncheon



Lady Lake
AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Lady Lake Chamber



Adult MAY Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed Memorial Day: May 25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <h2>Spring</h2> 				 1
4 ESL @10-11:30am Sign Up Required	5 AI For Life Presentation @ 2pm	6	 7	8 Crochet Club @ 3:00-4:00 pm
11 ESL @10-11:30am Sign Up Required	12 Book Discussion @ 2-4pm sign up required	13 SHINE 2-3:30pm	14 Wetland Wonders: Turtle Talk @ 2-3pm	15 Social Shuffle Playing: 'Shuffle' with Sam Sign Up Required @ 2-3pm
18 ESL @10-11:30am Page Turners, Book Club, Reading, Reader Club to completely flip by Mrs. Marylou Johnson	19 	20 Authors Round Table @ 2-4pm	21  @2-3:30pm sign up required	22 Apple Support iPhone, iPad, iMac @ 10:00-11:30am
25 LIBRARY CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 SHINE 2-3:30pm	28 Movies at the Library! Showings: Zootopia 2 (PG) @ 2:30 @ 3-5pm	29 

Youth MAY Lady Lake Library

Hours:
 Monday: 9am-7pm
 Tuesday-Friday: 9am-6pm
 Saturday and Sunday: Closed
 Closed Memorial Day: May 25

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <h2>Join Us In Our Monthly Scavenger Hunt!</h2> <p>Follow the clues and win a cool prize!</p>				1 Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30am (up to 18 mos.) Break & Beyond @ 3:30-4:30pm
4 Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	5 Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story) @ 2pm	6 Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm	7 	8 Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Kids' Singo! @3:30pm
11 Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	12 Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story) @ 2pm	13 Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm	14 	15 Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Make Your Own Book @ 2:30pm
18 Alphabet Adventures @11:30am Craft Kits Available! While supplies last.	19 Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story) @ 2pm	20 Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm	21 	22 Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30 (up to 18 mos.) Video Games @3:30-4:30pm
25 LIBRARY CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	26 Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play @ 10:30am Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story) @ 2pm	27 Storytime 10:30am Stories with Scarlett @3:00pm	28 	29 Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime @10:30am (up to 18 mos.) Friday Fables: Showing: How to Train your Dragon 2025 (PG) @ 2:30pm

CHAIR CHAT
BY BRIGGITTE SMITH

By Brigette Smith

Executive Director of the Republican Party Marion County

DID YOU KNOW: Sewage effluent is being dumped into our Aquifer.

According to the CDC, Marion county is leading in cancer sicknesses and it is getting worse. Boiling water won't help remove carcinogens, according to health officials. Best way to say it is, we have a sewage problem in central Florida, and it's not coming from farmer's agriculture, nor homes with septic systems.

Few people know that the University of Florida and Gainesville utilities inject vast quantities of sewage effluent every day and we are all living with this awful situation. According to their own data, the University of Florida and Gainesville Utilities are injecting 16 million gallons of sewage effluent every single day straight into the Florida aquifer – right under where people live and drink and especially suffer downstream. No one currently employed at the sewage treatment plants invented this method of dumping sewage effluent. It's been going on and increasing for many decades. Some wastewater goes in the Alachua sinkhole into the drinking water aquifer, some goes into Kanapaha injection pipes to the drinking water aquifer. This must stop.

That's not "recharge!" That's chronic low-level exposure to sewage carcinogens daily for thousands of families in Ocala, Silver Springs, Lake Weir, Rainbow Springs, the Villages and Marion county now leads the nation in cancer rates for people under 50 according to the CDC and NIH.

No number of words like treatment, recharge, recycle sewage emissions can change what is really happening. It is polluting our drinking water source UF has the science. Florida Representatives and Senators along with Governor DeSantis are keen on health and prosperity for all. Shut down the deep middle and shallow pipe injection, move all sewage liquids to work and profit on the surface in the gold zone. We protect our families, children and our community, real estate values and turn a liability into an asset.

The sewage effluent can be used in farming safely under the Sun, or in a data center safely. The XAI Colossus data center uses 13,000,000 gallons daily of sewage effluent to cool data chips, just outside Memphis, Tennessee. The numbers are ugly, especially for women with breast cancer. Blaming septic tanks is nonsense. A septic system works in the gold zone, the top 12 feet, exactly where sun, oxygen, and biology turn waste into fertilizer. There is no pipe from any septic tank going 400 feet down into the aquifer. The gold zone solution is simple: keep the effluent up top where nature designed the nitrogen cycle to work. Uses for example on Surface irrigation, golf courses, or even cooling data centers like XAI Colossus data center. Same water, zero aquifer risk, and free fertilizer.

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Vehicle Maintenance Checklist

(NAPSI)—There's no time like spring for some preventive vehicle maintenance. Seasonal inspections help address winter wear and prepare vehicles for warmer weather and summer travel.

"Winter takes its toll, even if it doesn't snow where you live, and a reset is good for you and your vehicle before the summer travel season," said Darren Bradshaw, senior vice president of Mopar North America. "Also, Mopar knows that preventive maintenance keeps vehicles on the road longer and saves money in the long run."

- The experts at Mopar, the global parts and service brand of Stellantis, suggest these checks to be road ready: **Tires:** Check air pressure, including the spare. The proper PSI is listed inside the driver's door jamb. Inspect both tread and sidewall for uneven or irregular wear.
- **Engine Belts, Hoses and Fuel Filter:** Prevent breakdowns or serious engine damage by replacing belts and hoses at recommended intervals. Replacing the fuel filter keeps the engine running well and maximizes fuel economy.
- **Brakes:** A thin layer of the brake pad disintegrates every time brakes are applied. Replace pads or shoes before drums or rotors become damaged. Inspect calipers, fittings, brake hardware and the parking brake to ensure proper performance.
- **Oil:** Engine oil should be checked

regularly and changed according to service recommendations.

- **Air Filter:** The air filter protects the engine from contaminants. Restricted airflow hinders performance and may lead to greater fuel consumption.
- **Fluid Levels:** Vehicle fluids and lubricants—coolant, power steering, brake fluid—should be checked and changed at factory-recommended intervals.
- **Battery:** Look for corroded terminals and a cracked or bulging case.
- **Shocks and Struts:** They're vital to a smooth ride and may affect handling. Look for signs of leaking fluid.
- **Wiper Blades:** Critical for a clear view. Mopar all-season wiper blades are made from an all-metal superstructure for durability and reliable performance.
- **Lights:** Inspect and test all exterior lamps, including turn signals and hazard lights.

Learn More

To help you with all this, the experts at Mopar offer numerous spring service specials and rebates.

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or go online to

<https://www.mopar.com/en-us/service-coupons-and-offers.html#coupons-section> or for more information, scan

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FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Cammack Introduces Landmark Bill to Deliver Critical Mental Health Support for First Responders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Rep. Cammack (R-FL-03) introduced the

Answering the Call Act of 2026, in recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This legislation strengthens the implementation of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by ensuring it effectively serves first responders.

First responders regularly face traumatic situations that increase the risk of depression, PTSD, substance use, and suicide. Despite the availability of the 9-8-8 Lifeline, utilization among the first responder community remains limited due to stigma, lack of tailored services, awareness and concerns about confidentiality.

The Answering the Call Act directly addresses these challenges by requiring targeted outreach and strengthening collaboration with organizations that understand the unique needs of the first responder community. The legislation also expands training and public awareness efforts, while incorporating strong privacy safeguards to ensure information is handled responsibly and used solely to guide future program improvements.

This legislation ensures that a critical national resource is accessible, trusted, and better equipped to address the needs of those who serve on the front lines.

"First responders run toward danger in our darkest moments—and as the wife of a first

responder, I've seen the reality of that sacrifice up close," said Rep. Cammack. "The stress, the sleepless nights, and the weight they carry home after every shift is real. This bill is about having their backs the same way they've always had ours. By expanding awareness, protecting privacy, and delivering support tailored to their experiences, we're making sure our public safety telecommunicators, firefighters, and EMTs have access to the care they deserve."

The bill has earned strong support across the first responder community.

"Behavioral health is a readiness issue for the fire service," said Florida Fire Chiefs' Association President William Barrs. "Supporting the mental wellness of our personnel not only protects the individuals who serve our communities but also strengthens the resilience and effectiveness of our emergency response systems. The Florida Fire Chiefs' Association stands ready to assist in advancing this important legislation and to partner in efforts that improve the health, safety, and well-being of our nation's first responders."

"Congresswoman Kat Cammack has long been a friend to Florida's sheriffs and a steadfast advocate for law enforcement. The Answering the Call Act of 2026 is yet another example of her continued advocacy for law enforcement," said Florida Sheriffs' Association President and Seminole County Sheriff Dennis Lemma. "Florida's sheriffs are grateful for the federal support focused on the mental health and well-being of our first responders."

Rep. Cammack Helps Launch Inaugural USDA Office of Seafood
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) joined U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, U.S.

Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, and White House National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett to announce the creation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Seafood.

The newly established office will strengthen the domestic seafood industry, support American fishermen and aquaculture producers, and expand access to markets—ensuring American seafood remains competitive at home and abroad. Florida's aquaculture sector supports thousands of jobs and plays a vital role in rural and coastal economies, particularly in North Central Florida. As Chairwoman of the Aquaculture Caucus, Rep. Cammack has been a leading advocate for policies that promote domestic aquaculture, protect producers, and invest in the future of American food security.

"Proud to be part of the launch of the inaugural, first-ever USDA Office of Seafood!" said Rep. Cammack. "Food security is national security which means prioritizing domestic production and strengthening our food supply here at home. From our Florida coasts to communities

across the country, we're cutting red tape, backing our fishermen, and ensuring American seafood competes—and wins—on the world stage."

"This office will not only elevate and support commercial production, but also advance commonsense conservation so future generations can thrive in this industry," Cammack added. "I'm grateful for the tenacious leadership driving this effort forward—Secretary Rollins, Secretary Lutnick, Secretary Hassett, Secretary Burgum—and President Trump."

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Answers page 14



Across

1. Bird feed
5. Lang of Smallville
9. Some housekeepers
14. "Hip to Be Square" rocker Lewis
15. Baseball Hall of Famer Slaughter
16. Knotted scarf
17. Grimm beastie
18. Seniors' org.
19. What "wine" and "dine" do
20. 1985 sci-fi comedy
23. Yakima-to-Coeur d'Alene dir.
24. "Well, looky here!"
25. Newborn
29. Summer TV fare
31. Astronaut's org.
33. Ebullience
34. Carps' cousins
36. Endangered longsnouted creatures
39. 1964 film subtitled "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb"

42. Goalie's area
43. Swashbuckler Flynn
44. Bleated sound
45. Like some straits
47. Multiple 2003 Grammy winner Jones
51. Orchestra section
54. Superman's symbol
56. Tarzan portrayer Ron
57. 1968 Matthau/Lemmon comedy
60. Of the Holy See
63. Han's honey, in "Star Wars" films
64. Perceived
65. Good on a trampoline, say
66. Judge
67. Really long story
68. Lascivious deity
69. Misses the mark
70. AAA suggestions

Down

1. Baby party
2. University of Oregon locale
3. More macabre
4. Henna user
5. Dog controller
6. Squeezer in the jungle
7. "Me neither"
8. Fluttering trees
9. With 38-Down, noted Venetian traveler
10. Wan
11. Like some slippery

12. Comic DeLuise
13. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g.: Abbr.
21. Snacks with holes
22. More in order
26. Tel _
27. Goodyear product
28. Initials on an ambulance
30. Astronomical bear
32. Ed who played Santa in "Elf"
35. Dig (up)
37. "The Tempest" king
38. See 9-Down
39. "Confound it!"
40. Kind of admiral
41. More avaricious
42. "CSI: Miami" network
46. She had a tryst with Tristan
48. Echo
49. Assert without proof
50. "Laughing" critters
52. Boot-shaped country
53. Ranger or Sabre, for short
55. Pulls a fast one on
58. Bucks and does
59. Sputnik launcher: Abbr.
60. Ballet step
61. Turkish title
62. "The _ and the Pendulum"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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68						69				70		

FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE



Attorney General James Uthmeier Recognizes Outstanding Law Enforcement and Victims' Advocates during 2025 Crime Victims' Rights Awards Ceremony

Courtesy of the Office of the Attorney

General

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the Distinguished Victim Services Award recipients during the National Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony. Every year, the Florida Attorney General's Office honors victim advocates and law enforcement officers who go above and beyond the call of duty to assist crime victims. Attorney General Uthmeier recognized the 2025 award winners during a ceremony in the Florida Cabinet Meeting Room this morning.

"These law enforcement officers and victim advocates meet victims on the worst days of their lives and make the choice to fight for them every day," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "It is an honor to recognize them for their service to our great state. We will stand together to ensure victims' rights come first."

The following law enforcement officers received the Attorney General's Distinguished Victim Services Award:

- Corporal Amanda Baranowski, Tampa

- Police Department;
- Detective Stephen Buscemi, Palm Beach Police Department;
- Detective Cora Milliken, Green Cove Springs Police Department; and
- Commander Daniel Mosquera, Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

The following victim advocates received the Attorney General's Distinguished Victim Services Award:

- Fawn Bascom, Dana Milton, Britney Noyes, and Annalise Spotts, Tallahassee Police Department Victim Advocates Unit;
- Johanne Baxter, Manatee County Sheriff's Office; and
- Rose Desmornes, Pembroke Pines Police Department.

Since 1981, National Crime Victims' Rights Week helps citizens and advocates reflect on commitments to serving victims of all crime. The Florida Constitution and Florida Crime Victims' Bill of Rights give crime victims or lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, granted rights. These include the right to be informed, present and heard when relevant at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to be free from harassment, intimidation or abuse, and to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered when setting bail or pretrial release conditions.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Launches Criminal Investigation into OpenAI, ChatGPT

Courtesy of the Office of the Attorney General

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the Office of Statewide Prosecution launched a criminal investigation into OpenAI and its artificial intelligence app, ChatGPT. The decision to launch the investigation comes after an initial review by prosecutors of the chat logs between ChatGPT and the gunman who opened fire at Florida State University last year, Phoenix Ikner.

"Florida is leading the way in cracking down on AI's use in criminal behavior, and if ChatGPT were a person, it would be facing charges for murder," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "This criminal investigation will determine whether OpenAI bears criminal responsibility for ChatGPT's actions in the shooting at Florida State University last year."

"It is important that all are aware of the risks of this new technology, and the harms it can and has already caused in our communities," said Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass. "The more we can educate ourselves, the better we can protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities from scams, fraud, and much worse."

Floridlaw states that anyone who aids, abets, or counsels someone in the commission of a crime, and that crime is committed or attempted, may be considered a principal to the crime. The "aider and abettor" is just as responsible for the crime as the perpetrator.

The Office of Statewide Prosecution subpoenaed OpenAI for the following information:

Beginning March 1, 2024, through April 17, 2026:

- All policies and internal training materials regarding user threats of harm to others.
- All policies and internal training materials regarding user threats of harm to self."
- All policies and internal training materials regarding cooperation with law enforcement, including policies for the reporting of possible past, present, or future crime.
- If multiple policies were in place during this time period and changed, all policies and dates of change.

For the dates of March 1, 2024, October 1, 2024, and April 17, 2025:

- Organizational Chart listing executives, directors, department heads, and/or senior managers of OpenAI.
- A listing of all employees, including affiliated departments and titles or role description(s), within ChatGPT.

Relating to the FSU Shooting on April 17, 2025:

- Any and all media publicly released.
- Any and all publicly released statements, including but not limited to, press releases and media interviews.

Florida has already taken significant action on combating crimes related to the use of AI. This action includes a 135-year prison sentence for a predator who possessed child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), some of which were AI-generated; another child predator is currently facing 100 criminal charges including 46 counts of AI-generated CSAM.

In March 2026, Attorney General Uthmeier joined Governor DeSantis for the signing of HB 1159

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Signs Legislation to Eliminate Local DEI Programs and Block Carbon Taxes in Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Governor Ron DeSantis signed two major pieces of

legislation aimed at protecting Florida taxpayers, strengthening existing laws against DEI in Florida, and protecting Floridians against ESG and Green New Deal agendas.

“Floridians should not be forced to pay for radical climate agendas or identity politics with their hard-earned tax dollars,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Today in Jacksonville, I signed two important bills to limit government overreach and prevent local authorities from imposing carbon taxes and discriminatory DEI mandates on Floridians.”

“The bill is necessary because cities and counties have been funding and promoting divisive activities under the guise of DEI,” said Senator Clay Yarborough. “Decisions related to individuals and actions should be based on merit and, if they are not, those making the decisions need to be replaced. At a time when many Floridians are struggling to afford groceries and gas, millions of taxpayer dollars should not continue to be wasted by local governments on DEI initiatives, even more so because they are failing to do what they claim.”

“Net-zero mandates and carbon taxes increase costs on families, businesses, and consumers,” said Representative Berny Jacques. “This bill protects Floridians from higher energy prices, increased transportation costs, and other hidden junk fees caused by emissions mandates and burdensome regulations. Thanks to Governor DeSantis’ action today, decision making will be kept in our hands, and not in the hands of global elites or green new deal activists.”

“We’re finding our way back to the everyman principles that make America great,” said Representative Dean Black. “The Governor’s signature positions this law as a guiding light for equal and fair opportunity in our state. No matter where you come from, no matter what you look like, the message should be clear: Florida recognizes your work ethic and the content of your character, and that’s what matters.”

Governor DeSantis signed SB 1134, which prohibits counties and municipalities from funding, promoting, or implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

This legislation:

Prohibits local governments from establishing or maintaining DEI offices, officers, or programs.

Bars taxpayer funding for DEI-related initiatives or third-party contractors promoting such efforts.

Requires grant recipients to certify that public funds will not be used to advance DEI.

Provides enforcement mechanisms, including penalties for officials who violate the law.

Governor DeSantis also signed HB 1217,

which prevents state and local governments from adopting or enforcing net-zero greenhouse gas emissions policies, including carbon taxes.

This legislation:

Prohibits government entities from implementing net-zero mandates or emissions targets.

Prevents new taxes, fees, or penalties tied to carbon emissions.

Bans participation in carbon trading programs such as cap-and-trade agreements.

Blocks the use of taxpayer funds to support organizations promoting net-zero policies.

Requires annual reporting to ensure compliance and transparency.

These actions build on Florida’s broader efforts to promote individual freedom, fiscal responsibility, and economic opportunity. The state has taken steps in recent years to ensure that we focus on excellence over indoctrination, eliminate taxpayer-funded ideological programs, and safeguard residents from burdensome regulations.

Governor Ron DeSantis Unveils Statue Honoring President Calvin Coolidge at Bok Tower Gardens

LAKE WALES, Fla.—Governor Ron DeSantis unveiled a new statue honoring President Calvin Coolidge at Bok Tower Gardens, commemorating his enduring legacy, his impact on the garden sanctuary, and America’s ongoing 250th anniversary celebration. The governor was joined by members and supporters of the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation, which champions Coolidge’s beliefs of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and civic virtue.

“Coolidge governed as a constitutionalist, eliminated debt, balanced the budget, reduced taxes, and promoted a unified American civic tradition and culture,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Today, I unveiled a statue honoring President Calvin Coolidge, who dedicated Bok Tower Gardens on Lake Wales in one of his last public appearances as President. As America marks its 250th anniversary, I was proud to honor President Coolidge with this new statue.”

“President Coolidge believed that places like Bok Tower Gardens help people connect with beauty and reflect on what makes our country special,” said Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd. “As Florida leads the America 250 celebration, this statue honors President Coolidge’s faith in the strong character of the American people and the natural beauty that continues to inspire our state.”

“The state of Florida’s decision to showcase Coolidge and his values is an example for the nation,” said Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Chair Amity Shlaes. “In these challenging times, the Coolidge values of thrift, respect for enterprise, and government restraint are more important than ever. Floridians, and all Americans across the land, will now come to Bok Tower Gardens to visit the statue and study Coolidge.”

Calvin Coolidge, known as “Silent Cal,” rose from humble beginnings in Vermont to become the 30th President of the United States. His leadership emphasized fiscal

discipline, low taxes, and limited government, and these principles helped shape the economic expansion of the 1920s. After serving as vice president under Warren G. Harding, Coolidge assumed the presidency in 1923 following Harding’s death. The location of the statue carries special Florida historical significance.

In 1928, Bok Tower Gardens founder Edward Bok invited President Coolidge to participate in the dedication of the Singing Tower sanctuary. Coolidge accepted, traveling to Lake Wales to deliver the keynote address at the site, solidifying its place in both Florida and presidential history. The statue stands near the location where the president delivered the official dedication address for Bok Tower Gardens in February 1929—one of his final public appearances before leaving office.

About America 250 Florida

Today’s unveiling is part of Florida’s broader initiative to honor the individuals who shaped our nation over the past 250 years and to preserve America’s civic pride and heritage for future generations. Florida has led the way in establishing monuments to influential leaders, including statues of Founding Fathers such as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington, as well as more recent figures like Ronald Reagan and Frederick Douglass.

America 250 Florida marks the state’s official observance of America’s semiquincentennial and will host and help sponsor special events throughout the year for Floridians from all corners of the state to enjoy. Floridians can find information on events, exhibits, heritage sites, and participation opportunities at America250FL.com, the state’s official hub for the Semiquincentennial celebration.

Governor Ron DeSantis Dedicates Bobby Bowden-Tallahassee International Airport

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Governor Ron DeSantis announced the dedication of Bobby Bowden-Tallahassee International Airport in the state’s capital city. Additionally, the governor announced the first phase of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) widening and improvement project for State Road (S.R.) 263 (Capital Circle) from Springhill Road to orange Avenue would open to drivers a full year ahead of schedule, with construction on the second phase of widening Capital Circle Southwest accelerated and now underway.

“Bobby Bowden-Tallahassee International Airport is now official,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Coach Bowden was a college football legend, and it is fitting that we honor his legacy in a way that will be seen by all who travel to and from our capital city.”

“FDOT is proud to deliver Phase One of Capital Circle improvements one year ahead of schedule and to get started on the highly anticipated Phase Two,” said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. “Thanks to Governor DeSantis’ Moving Florida

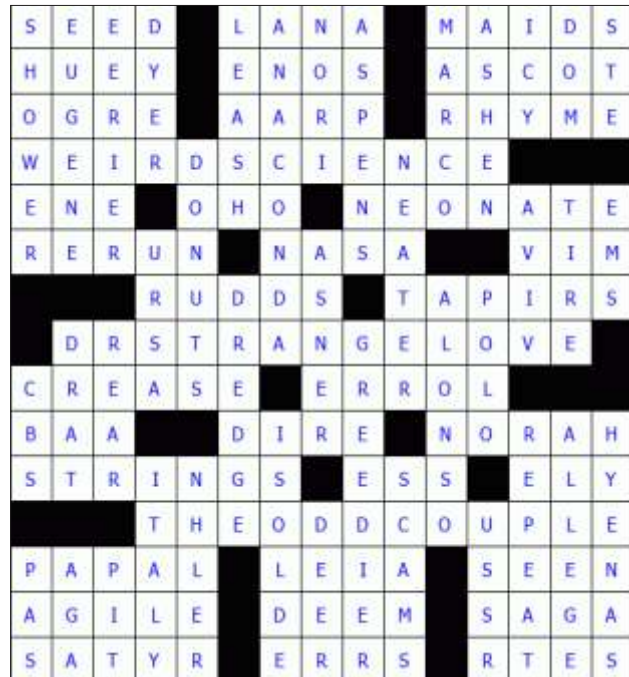
Forward initiative, this second phase is the last piece to complete the Capital Circle loop and to seamlessly connect multiple modes of travel in Florida’s capital city.”

“I spoke with my mother this past weekend, and while she is unable to attend the ceremony this afternoon, she asked me to relay her deepest appreciation for this great honor,” said State Attorney Ginger Bowden Madden. “Daddy spent so many hours in the terminals of the Tallahassee airport over his 46 years in this great city, so it feels appropriate that it now bears his name. On behalf of my mother and the entire Bowden family, I want to thank Governor DeSantis for his leadership and service to the Free State of Florida, and for leading the initiative to honor our father, your Coach Bobby Bowden, in this way.”

The governor signed Senate Bill 628, officially designating Bobby Bowden-Tallahassee International Airport in Leon County, along with several honorary designations for roads across the state.

Bobby Bowden rose from humble beginnings in Birmingham, Alabama, to become one of the most iconic figures in college football, ultimately transforming Florida State University into a national powerhouse after being named as head coach in 1976. Over 34 seasons, he led the Florida State Seminoles to two national championships, 12 ACC titles, and an extraordinary era of dominance in the 1990s, including 14 consecutive top-five finishes and five national championship appearances. He retired with a 316—97—4 record at FSU and a 377—129—4 record overall, coached countless All-Americans and future NFL players, and left a lasting impact not only through his success on the field but through his leadership, faith, and mentorship of generations of young men. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2006 and awarded the inaugural Governor’s Medal of Freedom in 2021.

The \$63.5 million Capital Circle Southwest Phase One project expanded the road to six lanes for nearly four miles. This project is now wrapping up and completing a year ahead of schedule. Phase Two of this project was previously unfunded for construction, but thanks to Governor DeSantis’ Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative, the project has been advanced and is now beginning construction. This phase will widen 2.2 miles of the roadway to six lanes with an anticipated completion in mid-2030.



Travel: Meet Sue Fullerton



Sue Fullerton's journey into the world of travel is rooted not only in a love of exploration, but in a deep understanding of what truly matters—time, connection, and the memories we create along the way. Since becoming a travel advisor in 2008, Sue has dedicated herself to helping others experience the world in meaningful, memorable ways, all while based in sunny Florida with her husband of 48 years.

Together, Sue and her husband have built a strong and loving blended family that now spans four children, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren—with another eagerly anticipated addition on the way. Family plays a central role in Sue's life, and it's this appreciation for togetherness that shapes how she approaches travel planning. She understands firsthand how powerful shared experiences can be, whether it's a multi-generational cruise, a milestone celebration, or a long-awaited getaway.

Originally raised in California, Sue later made her way to New Jersey, where she met the love of her life. Their journey together has been filled with growth, change, and the kind of life experiences that give Sue a unique ability to connect with her clients on a personal level. She doesn't just plan trips—she listens, she understands, and she designs travel experiences that reflect each client's story, priorities, and dreams.

Sue's path to becoming a travel advisor was shaped by a profound and life-changing moment. Early in her career, a former boss shared a story that would stay with her forever. He and his wife had planned to postpone vacations until retirement, believing they would have all the time in the world to travel later. Tragically, his wife passed away from cancer just six months before he was set to retire. What remained was not just grief, but the painful absence of shared adventures and cherished travel memories. That story deeply impacted Sue and ultimately inspired her career. She made a promise to herself to help others avoid that same regret—to encourage people to embrace the present and create memories now, while they can.

As the owner and driving force behind Walk Don't Run Travel, Sue has spent more than a decade turning that mission into reality for her clients. Her business philosophy is simple but powerful: travel should never feel rushed or overwhelming—it should be savored, thoughtfully planned, and deeply enjoyed. This philosophy is reflected in the

name of her agency, which serves as a gentle reminder to slow down and truly experience the journey.

Sue's expertise spans a wide range of travel styles and experiences. She is highly skilled in planning ocean and river cruises, guided tours, and scenic rail journeys, as well as customized itineraries that weave together multiple destinations seamlessly. Whether a client is seeking a relaxing escape, an immersive cultural experience, or a complex, once-in-a-lifetime adventure, Sue brings both creativity and precision to every detail.

Her clients value her not only for her extensive industry knowledge, but for her personalized, hands-on approach. Sue takes the time to understand each traveler's preferences, pace, and expectations, ensuring that every itinerary is tailored to fit their unique vision. She handles the logistics, anticipates potential challenges, and provides guidance every step of the way, allowing her clients to travel with confidence and peace of mind.

Over the years, Sue has built a reputation as a trusted advisor and advocate for her clients. She believes that travel is more than just visiting new places—it's about creating stories, strengthening relationships, and enriching lives. Whether she's helping a couple celebrate an anniversary, coordinating a family reunion, or planning a dream vacation years in the making, Sue approaches every trip with genuine care and dedication.

Through Walk Don't Run Travel, Sue continues to inspire others to embrace the joy of travel without delay. Her work is guided by a simple but meaningful belief: the best time to make memories is now. And with her expertise, passion, and heartfelt commitment, she ensures those memories are as seamless, special, and unforgettable as possible.

Regaining Control:



Regaining Control: How One Woman with Parkinson's Disease Keeps Moving Thanks to Deep Brain Stimulation

(NAPSI)—It all started about 15 years ago with a strange vibration in her left leg.

"I thought it was nothing," recalls Suzanne Friedman, a South Florida mom who at the time was in her 40s and busy juggling a career and family.

She mentioned the vibration to her physician during an annual check-up, thinking it was probably just a pinched nerve. Instead, her physician asked a question that stopped her cold: What about Parkinson's disease?

"What?" Suzanne remembers thinking. "I was completely shocked."

A referral to a neurologist soon followed, along with an official diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, news which sent Suzanne into what she describes as a yearlong tailspin.

"You don't expect to go into the doctor's office and walk out with a life-changing diagnosis," Suzanne added.

April is recognized as Parkinson's Awareness Month, a time to spotlight the experiences of the 1.1 million Americans living with the disease and raise awareness of potential treatment options¹. For many people, treatments revolve around medications. In Suzanne's case, her journey eventually led her to deep brain stimulation.

Living Around the Medication

After the news of her diagnosis settled in, she did what many patients typically do: she pushed forward.

Worried that her mobility would start to decline, Suzanne and her family traveled as much as possible before her symptoms worsened. For three years she was able to manage without medical intervention. When she finally started treatment with medications, relief came, but so did side effects.

She developed dyskinesia, the uncontrolled movements that can develop after long-term use of medications that treat Parkinson's.

"My foot would just start tapping," she said. "When I was nervous, it was worse."

She began living her life around her medication and dosing schedule.

"I had to be so careful and watch every step," she added. "I wasn't enjoying life. I was suffering."

Some days the medicine worked; some days it didn't. The unpredictability was crushing and emotionally draining.

"I had no control. No consistency. I couldn't go somewhere without worrying I suddenly wouldn't be able to walk."

For years, Suzanne kept her diagnosis to herself—she didn't even tell her own mother.

"I couldn't bring myself to tell people. I didn't want them to freak out, because it freaked me out."

Before Parkinson's disease, she described herself as "the party queen," never missing an opportunity to socialize. Over time, she became less social and any kind of stress made her symptoms worse.

Finding Another Option

When medication and other treatment options failed, she turned to late-night research and social media groups, which led her to something she hadn't seriously considered yet: deep brain stimulation (DBS). Eager to learn more, she started reaching out to people who had undergone the procedure.

"They all said it would have a positive impact," she added.

DBS isn't a cure for Parkinson's disease. The treatment works by sending mild electrical signals to a targeted portion of the brain through leads connected to a small, implanted device called a stimulator. These signals can help improve movement symptoms such as stiffness, tremors and slowness.

When Suzanne's doctor presented her with the various DBS treatment options, she chose ['Boston Scientific Vercise Genus™ Deep Brain Stimulation System'](#). "I wanted the most up-to-date technology available, and I liked that it had a rechargeable battery," she added.

Suzanne began the process and had her DBS system implanted in 2018. Following the operation, she and her healthcare team worked together to fine-tune the DBS system, a painless process of making micro-adjustments to the electrical current to

personalize her results.

"As the doctor started programming, my daughter watched him turn off my Parkinson's symptoms with a computer," Suzanne recalls.

Keep Moving to Keep Moving

Nearly 15 years after her initial diagnosis, she says you wouldn't know she has Parkinson's disease if you met her.

"The biggest change is consistency," she says. "I feel like I have more control. I don't have to worry about going somewhere and not being able to walk after."

She walks three miles every day. She practices yoga. She plays cards with friends and works in the family business. Once a week, she attends Rock Steady Boxing, a non-contact fitness program designed for people with Parkinson's disease that research suggests can help slow symptom progression.

"If you want to walk, you have to walk," she says. "You have to keep moving to keep moving."

Stories like this highlight why Parkinson's Awareness Month matters: Raising awareness helps more patients and their families learn about symptoms, treatment options and supportive communities that can help them keep moving forward.

Suzanne isn't defined by her diagnosis. She is defined by motion—by miles walked, by punches thrown in a boxing class, by trips taken, by a life lived on her own terms.

Learn More

DBS has helped an estimated 244,000 people worldwide regain control of their movement and independence in daily life². In recognition of Parkinson's Awareness Month, patients and caregivers are encouraged to learn more about symptoms and treatment options. Visit [DBSandMe.com](#) to learn more about Parkinson's disease and DBS therapy.

Results from case studies are not necessarily predictive of results in other cases. Results in other cases may vary. You can talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits of deep brain stimulation and if it is an option for you.

1. Parkinson's Foundation. *Parkinson's Disease Statistics*. <https://www.parkinson.org/understanding-parkinsons/statistics>

2. Sandoval-Pistorius SS, Hacker ML, Waters AC, Wang J, Provenza NR, de Hemptinne C, Johnson KA, Morrison MA, Cerner S. *Advances in Deep Brain Stimulation: From Mechanisms to Applications*. *J Neurosci*. 2023 Nov 8; 43(45):7575-7586. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.1427-23.2023. PMID: 37940596; PMCID: PMC10634582.



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