



The may networking lunch was held at quality networking. Pictures of the Texas roadhouse in Lady Lake. Attendees winners of the door prizes on page 8.. enjoyed a delicious menu, and lots of

## LL PD Investigates Shooting



LLPD Investigates Shooting: Identify of car being shot at



LLPD Investigates Shooting: Identify of Shooter's Car

On 5/19/2026 at approximately 5:14 p.m., a maroon Nissan SUV (possibly a Murano) entered the parking lot of Affordable Lock, located at 356 S US Hwy 441, Lady Lake, FL. An unknown Black male exited the SUV, ran to the roadside, and discharged approximately seven rounds from a handgun toward a silver sedan believed to be a Hyundai Elantra.

Immediately after the shooting, the

suspect returned to the maroon SUV, and the vehicle fled the area. The license plates on both vehicles are unknown at this time. No victims or injuries have been reported. Use caution if encountering vehicles or individuals matching this description. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Ronnie Williams at (352)636-5687 or by email at rwilliams@ladylake.org.

## Water Shortage

TomL  
Many years ago there a water study done by a hydrologist out of Orlando. He had a one of a kind machine he had personally invented, that could tell you what was going on down in then aquifers. He studied the whole area. I Florida water run south under ground. It has three aquifers upper middle and deep one. The hydrologist conclude there was no middle Aquifer in Sumter County, which is not good for normal water storage and could not supplying a large Development. He explain that is why there are so many sinkholes in the area. The water when it tries to regenerate itself with a good rain the water rush from the upper straight to the deep aquifer taking ground and rocks and what6 ever is in the way. Wala sinkhole!

The claim got disputed and the hydrologist left the area, I heard he left the business and sold his Hydrology machine to some big company. The development continued sprawling across the counties at a rapid rate.

At the time they even claimed the Villages

brought lake Weir down two feet. I had and still have the Village Spectator and at that time I was delivering a lot of homes in the Villages. My paper covered it. Lot's of battles went on.

The Villages is a bunch of Community Development Districts. If they keep the districts small enough they don't have to report to the state. So things have been quiet but sooner or later the bear will awake and realize they don't have water. Water is probably the most critical subject there is in the Villages. They must water the golf courses, the infrastructure before you can have a drink or water your lawn. I don't know when it will happen but I know it's coming and I won't be pretty. That is a battle I will not in but then two home owners associations. One the Villages owns and the other thinks it can control the Villages by legal matters NOT TRUE!

The building has not slowed. The voting base is too big to control.

Read story on page 15!

THE END!

## Animal Cruelty Arrest

Lori Gonzalez was arrested yesterday on a warrant for 31 counts of Animal Cruelty. This is regarding an investigation that was opened on April 13th at 28304 Atlantis Rd. in Tavares. Thirty-one cows were found to be it what appeared to be emaciated condition on Ms. Gonzalez's property. Further investigation including evaluation

by a veterinarian concluded that the cattle were severely neglected. A warrant for 31 counts of animal cruelty was obtained, and Ms. Gonzalez was booked in to the Lake County Jail on a total of \$77,500 bond. She posted bond early on the morning of May 7th and was released pending her court appearance.

## Minestrone Soup Recall

Whole Foods Market Kitchen pulls Minestrone Soup

- Whole Foods Market Kitchen Minestrone Soup was pulled from shelves in 17 states because it may contain undeclared shrimp, a top-tier allergen.
- The recall shows how a simple labeling or production slip can become a life-or-

death issue for shellfish-allergic shoppers.

- No illnesses were reported in the material reviewed, suggesting a precautionary recall that worked as intended.
- The incident highlights how large retailers, regulators, and suppliers juggle risk, transparency, and responsibility in a complex food chain.

# Town News Lake County Events



Advent Health Home Health celebrated the opening of their new office in Lake Sumter Landing with a

ribbon-cutting. The space marks the first of its kind in the area.

## Big Bang Fireworks Celebration

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, the Town of Lady Lake is inviting residents and visitors to “The Big Bang,” the community's Independence Day celebration, taking place Saturday, June 27 at 6 p.m. at the Guava Street Athletic Complex.

This free, family-friendly event promises an evening full of excitement, entertainment, and patriotic fun.

### Highlights of The Big Bang include:

- Fireworks spectacular – The sky lights up at 9:15 p.m. with a dazzling display sponsored by the Benchmark Group, The Orane Blossom Gardens Lions Club and American Legion Post #347.
- Live Music – Dance the night away with performances by Tabasco
- Watermelon Eating Contests, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Lady Lake. Fun for all ages with separate contests for kids and adults.
- Arts & Crafts Table – Get creative with hands-on activities for the whole family.
- Food Trucks & Vendors – Satisfy your cravings with a wide variety of delicious options.
- Kid Zone – Packed with fun including

bounce houses, slides, and a foam party sponsored by Dream Finders Homes.

**VIP Tent Packages** are available for \$50, offering shaded seating with prime views of the stage and fireworks. Each tent includes a table, chairs and party favors. Reserve yours today by contacting Amy Alicea at [AAlicea@ladylake.org](mailto:AAlicea@ladylake.org) or 352-205-2826.

To make your evening even easier, skip the parking hassle and take advantage of free luxury shuttle service, proudly sponsored by Lamers Transportation. Shuttles will run continuously from 6 to 10:30 p.m. between Snooky Park and the event site on Guava Street.

**Rolling Acres Sports Complex will be closed to pedestrians, cars, and golf carts prior to and for the duration of the event.**

Text **TheBigBang26** to **38276** for real time updates or visit .

## Watch for these Events Coming

### Fairways Fore Futures

June 1, 2026

Harbor Hills Country Club  
Funds raised to support Central Florida Sports. It's all for the kids & their families. Goddy Bags for Players with a great featured item!

### Summer Gal's Night Our

June 9, 2026

Wildwood Community Center  
A relaxing evening with friends that make a real difference. Join the movement. Empower her future.

### Business 2 Business Networking Expo

August 27, 2026

11 am – 4 pm  
Water Oak Country club

### 2026 4th Annual Power of Women

October 27, 2026 10:00 AM thru 01:00 PM

Water Oak Country Club  
Bloom from Within: Hormones, Health & Happiness

More details on page 15

## Officer Charles Gehrsitz Honored



### Lady Lake Police Department Names Sgt. Charles Gehrsitz 2025 Officer of the Year

**LADY LAKE**— The Lady Lake Police Department has named Sgt. Charles Gehrsitz as its 2025 Officer of the Year, recognizing his leadership, professionalism and commitment to the community, during a special ceremony commemorating Law Enforcement Month at the Town Commission meeting on Monday.

The Officer of the Year recognition honors an individual who exemplifies the highest standards of law enforcement and makes a lasting impact on both the department and the community it serves. Gehrsitz was honored in partnership with American Legion Post 347.

“Law enforcement is not just a profession—it's a calling,” said Chief Steve Hunt. “It demands integrity when no one is watching, courage in the face of uncertainty, and compassion when people need it most. Sergeant Gehrsitz represents the very best of those values—not only in performance, but in character, leadership and commitment to this community.”

Throughout 2025, Gehrsitz played a key role in advancing the department's capabilities. He led the implementation of the town's license plate reader program, strengthening investigative efforts and enhancing public safety through responsible use of technology. He also established the Internet Crimes Against Children investigative function for the department, ensuring compliance with state requirements and expanding the agency's

ability to protect vulnerable populations.

In addition to his operational achievements, Gehrsitz invested in the next generation of law enforcement professionals. He trained and mentored two new detectives, helping to build a stronger investigative division and support long-term growth within the agency. When needed, he stepped into the role of Patrol Sergeant, maintaining continuity of leadership and high performance standards.

Gehrsitz also demonstrated a strong commitment to professional development. He completed the Southern Police Institute Command Officer Development Course as class valedictorian and attended the prestigious FBI National Academy in Quantico. While away for 10 weeks, he continued to fulfill his responsibilities to the department, balancing advanced training with his duties and family life.

Also honored during the ceremony were:

- Sgt. Michelle Bilbrey, Cpl. Andru Eckerdt and Officer Jesse Pettis for their outstanding work capturing one of the FBI's 10 Most Wanted.
- Cpl. Andru Eckerdt and Officer Ryan O'Neal for a golf cart traffic stop that led to additional vehicle theft charges across jurisdictions.
- Sgt. Tom Sarakinis, who was Officer of the Year in 2023, for his retirement after 16 years of dedication to the Lady Lake Police Department.



Send us your events  
[TLoury@att.net](mailto:TLoury@att.net)

# St. Johns River Management

The St. Johns River Water Management District Phase III "Extreme" Water Shortage Order is the highest level of water restrictions under the District's Water Shortage Plan and is intended to protect groundwater and surface water supplies during severe drought conditions. The order became effective immediately upon execution on May 11, 2026.

## Residential Lawn Watering Schedule

Odd-numbered addresses: May water only on Saturday

Even-numbered addresses: May water only on Sunday

## Time Restrictions

Watering is prohibited between: 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

## That means irrigation is only allowed:

Before 8 a.m.

After 6 p.m.

## Only on the assigned watering day

New Landscaping

Newly installed plants, sod and landscaping have a shortened establishment allowance under a "15/30/15" schedule:

Any day watering for the first 15 days after installation

Up to 3 days per week for the next 30 days

Up to 2 days per week for the final 15 days

## What Residents Should Avoid

The order also prohibits "wasteful and unnecessary" water use, including:

Letting irrigation run onto sidewalks or streets

Watering inefficiently

Using water where alternatives exist

## Pressure Washing and Cleaning

Pressure washing is still allowed only for necessary maintenance, such as:

## Removing mold or mildew

Preparing surfaces for painting or sealing

Meeting warranty requirements

Simply cleaning for appearance or HOA standards is not considered necessary maintenance.

## Vehicle Washing

Commercial car washes may continue operating under conservation measures, but non-essential washing of equipment and vehicles is generally discouraged or suspended under the order.

## Pools and Decorative Water Features

Pools must be maintained to minimize refill needs and leaks repaired promptly.

Decorative or aesthetic water uses are prohibited.

## HOAs Cannot Override the Order

The order specifically states that homeowners associations and property managers cannot enforce landscaping standards that would cause residents to violate the water restrictions.

# Probe into Beef Giants

## **Trump Ignites Criminal Probe into Beef Giants**

From the internet

The DOJ has escalated its probe into meatpacking giants to criminal status, targeting potential price-fixing that squeezes ranchers while jacking up your grocery bill—what happens if they crack this cartel?

· DOJ Antitrust Division investigates Tyson Foods, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef for criminal antitrust violations in

cattle contracts.

· Four firms control 85% of U.S. beef processing market, amid 50% beef price surge.

· President Trump sparked the probe in November 2025 after accusing packers of manipulating rancher prices and inflating consumer costs.

· Wall Street Journal revealed criminal nature on April 21, 2026; no charges yet, DOJ silent.

· Texas Ag Commissioner Sid Miller hails it as long-overdue fairness for ranchers.

President Donald Trump accused meatpackers of manipulating cattle purchase prices in November 2025 and demanded DOJ action. Tyson Foods, Cargill, JBS, and National Beef face scrutiny for contracts tied to a pricing benchmark ranchers claim is rigged.

These firms control 85% of the slaughter of grain-fattened cattle. Beef prices surged nearly 50%, hitting consumers hard. Trump highlighted foreign ownership of JBS and National Beef, though U.S.-based Tyson and Cargill also dominate. This criminal probe marks a sharp turn from prior efforts.

## **Beef Industry Consolidation Enables Pricing Power**

Four companies process 85% of U.S. retail beef, giving them leverage over ranchers and shoppers. Ranchers sell cattle under contracts referencing allegedly manipulated benchmarks. The Packers buy low, sell high to consumers amid price spikes.

A prior DOJ investigation from 2017 through Biden's term closed weeks before this launch, without charges. Critics point to excessive consolidation fostering anticompetitive deals.

## **Farmers are finally getting a break as per Trump meeting with Chi!**

They made a deal on three or four of the major things the farmers were asking for. Soy beans were one.

# Letter to Ran Paul

The Statue of limitation is up Monday May 18th I think? After that they can't be prosecuted! Ran Paul first let say that I disagree the way you vote. BUT you are right on with this investigation. I wrote about the COVID cover up during Obama's first term. That is why I became a Republican. I research all the information on the internet. Here is my recollection.

Fauci was put in charge of COVID research by Obama who agreed to send money to WAHAN Lab for research in China. The decided to send it to a church, the church would later change thier name. The money would go through them to the Lab! Some where there aLab problem so Obama decided that he did not want to be involved OR COVER IT UP! Fauci did not agree and continued the program, whether Obama knew it after that I could not access.

I believe that they wanted to develop the virus to pandemic strength then develop a cure. How much would the cure be worth?? Before they could come up with a cure there was a Lab leak and the cover up even got stronger. Fauci got everyone involved, The scientist, our protective government shoving it under the rug. Millions died and someone needs to pay for this. When I wrote the story I did not believe the flack I got one

was the church over seas that was getting the money. I think that was when they changed the name. I just write what I believe4 is the truth! Keep pressure on them and something will happen.

I am watching you question them now.

I live on a small farm in Dunnellon Florida and been on the same farm for 56 years. There is another pressing problem I will address later.

TomL Publishing LLC

# Tax Payers vs Tax Burden!

## **You Can't Replace Tax Payers With Tax Burden!**

When the tax payer can no longer pay then they become a tax burden. I ask do you want to be a communist? You can count on them saying no.

Do you want to be a Democratic Socialist? Maybe they say yes because they are looking for something out ragious to say or vote for. Be careful what you wish for.

You say then why are you voting for them? They are replacing the US Citizens who need help n or with strangers. Some of the Blue and maybe a few Reds have stolen the money from tax payers.

In New York today the new mayor is getting a lesson. Yes Mandami is very arrogant. Now he says he will take property away from home and building owners? Even some very large apartment building.

The very wealthy are moving out to other New York to states with no tax. Why should they let a communist tell them what to do and take their money?

I remember Obama say one day in a speech you did You did not build that business. He infers that it was the structure of the town, county, states and infrastructure. He received a lot of back lash. That is way the left thinks. There are US citizens working all day and half the night to get ahead, why should they give it to someone that don't work and don't want to work and can live free on us?

# Letter to Donald Trump

TomL Publishing LLC  
Village Spectator  
4-09-2026

Ocala DownTown  
Lady Lake Magazine  
Seniors Voice of Ocala  
To Donald Trump  
(president of the United States)

My wife and I are elderly, we are your biggest supporters. I have 4 digital newspapers. I use to deliver by hand thousands of newspapers. The COVID cost me a lot of friends and all my money. Now all four newspapers are digital which is the only way I can continue. All four editions for the last ten years or more have had at least three half pages of government press releases in every paper. I continue to endorse you, I did a story about you verses the John Wayne the legendary movie hero. I remember him in true grit putting his reins of his in his teeth and a gun in each hand and he road against the Gang by himself. In comparison he was make believe and you are the real thing. I have watched you saddle up and go against the bad guys many times and you have won every time.

The only thing I don't like is a few of your terminology like you're going to take over Greenland or you are going to end civilization in Iran. I know it is the way you start negotiations but the regular people of that country feel degraded.

You're my hero especially when you were wounded bleeding hollering high fight fight fight with your fist in the air and the little woman with the Presidential guard shielding the front of you.

I think you are very smart, Pretty tuff, have a lot of grit. I'm just broke and can't afford to give money but as long as I can keep my business going I will back you up! If I hit a windfall I will contribute.

If you could ever slip away while I'm still around I would love to have a cup of coffee with you. I live on a dirt road near Rainbow Springs Florida. No one would even know you were here.

Respectfully

Thomas N Loury

TomL Publishing LLC

Tomlpublishing.com

LOURY FARM

17400 SW 47 lane

Dunnellon Florida 34432

# I Asked AI Why Do People hate?

Antisemitism, often referred to as the "longest hatred," is a complex, enduring, and irrational prejudice that has persisted for thousands of years. It is not based on facts, but rather on a combination of myths, lies, conspiracy theories, and scapegoating that have evolved over time to fit different historical

Hatred of the Jews had long been entrenched in Europe. The image of the Jew as the murderer of Jesus and the fact that Jews had rejected Christianity's...

Historically, Jesus was executed by crucifixion under the authority of Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. While some New Testament accounts indicate that specific Jewish leaders and individuals in Jerusalem in the first century pushed for his execution, the concept of collective or generational Jewish guilt is rejected by historians and major religious institutions

Harmless historical speculation, the myth, also known as "deicide," has resulted in unimaginable Jewish suffering and has been used to justify antisemitic beliefs, despite the uniform agreement of historians and theologians that Jews are not culpable for the death of Jesus.

The origin of the misconception is based on a verse in the New Testament: "His blood be on us, and on our children," (Matthew 27:24-25), which has been read as an admission that all Jews, of Jesus's time and after, accepted responsibility for Jesus' death.

According to some scholars, such as Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University Divinity School, the passage has caused more Jewish suffering throughout history than any other in the New Testament. For centuries, the myth was promulgated by Christian leaders during sermons that often inspired church members to avenge the death of Jesus and even condemned Jews as agents of the devil.

**WHAT SAY YOU?**

**TLourey@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



I think re-dedicating our County to God is the best thing I have heard in years. We need to be thankful to our forefathers who set our country up with God as our savior. What ever god you believe in please

column every month. Call a veteran and thank them! See a veteran thank them.

I am so discussed with the last two administrations Obama and Biden. Everyone is racing to our country because they like what they see, FREE EVERYTHING we need to change it. That is just like now people moving out of states because they elected sorry managers and now they will settle here and try to change us to what they were. A group of people think they have better ideas then they pick sorry leaders, or worst yet thieves, robbing the poor and innocent needy. People all around us are reaching for a free ride!

Today I get many texts and email asking for money saying the other side is going to change our laws. Well they might but you don't have to threaten people to collect money or give a local title with a party then say you taken that title away because you don't contribute. They want half of your grocery money Their not shy!

Politition's should work for nothing, Trump does! Make it illegal for them to

continue. Local ministers preach accept God as your savior, putting in a frame work of our whole country doing it is epic! Dedicate your life. I would like to thank our Veterans for fighting to keep our heritage. The visitors in our country Illegals need to go Home to their own country instead of trying to change our country by rioting. Communism should not be allowed here. ATHEIST GO HOME, WE ARE OFFERING TO PAY YOUR WAY!

Which brings me to the veterans all over the world Thank You! To show our appreciation we will be having a Veterans

make outside money on Stocks they can maneuver. Elect people to fit our mold they are smart and tell them they are working for nothing for four years or two years FREE!

If they lie, cheat or steal make it a mandatory sentence and fired! Create a Supreme Court oversight! If the Supreme Court is bias and it is proven take them off the Supreme Court. If someone accuses them wrong doing and they and they are found not guilty investigate the accuser! Have a mandatory sentence for that!

Today anyone can accuse anybody of anything. We need to make a law that says they can't do that. If a group creates illegal activity jail them or deport them. The lord has told us to forgive but we should not be stupid about it! Get the away from our children!

## Veterans News In Marion County

Veterans will have news in our Marion County paper

Our publication in Marion County now goes to 48,000 veterans. We are please to help the veterans all we can. Editor of the Veterans column is Todd Belknap. All veterans info will go through him. You can read the Ocala version of OcalaDownTown.com Link is

On OcalaDowntown.com  
Ocala Downtown

We would be happy to have comments on what you think. We love the veterans and thank them every chance we get!

**Newspaper Deadlines**  
*Editorial & Ad Copy for July*  
**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**  
**Noon, June 19th**  
**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**  
**12am, June 24th**

**Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine**  
**Products of TomL Publishing, LLC**  
 P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430  
 Publisher: Tom Loury  
 Phone: 352-804-1223 | Email: [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

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## FAIRTAX



An article from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation points out an aspect of the income/payroll tax system that

has helped allow it to continue to exist - that aspect is tax breaks. The article makes these points:

\* The United States lost an estimated \$2.2 trillion in revenue through tax expenditures, commonly known as tax breaks, in 2025.

\* According to the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), tax exemptions "include any reduction in income tax liability that results from special tax provisions or regulations that provide tax benefits to particular taxpayers".

\* In 2025, the federal government collected \$3.1 trillion in individual and corporate taxes. At the same time, the tax code generated \$2.2 trillion in tax breaks - more than was spent on Social Security, Medicare, defense or any other program.

\* The breaks exceeded the size of the \$1.8 trillion deficit in 2025 by \$444 billion.

\* JCT estimated that in 2025, 84 percent of the tax benefits from deductions for state and

local taxes, charitable contributions and mortgage interest went to taxpayers with incomes over \$250,000.

\* The cost of tax expenditures increased by \$296 billion in 2025 over the last year, and JCT estimated that the cost will continue to grow over the next four years. In fact, the cost of tax expenditures grew 15 percent. That is more than the growth in:

- Social Security (8 percent)
- Medicare (14 percent)
- Medicaid and other health (7 percent)
- National defense (5 percent)

Each of the "tax expenditures - deductions" is designed to placate certain Americans and keep them from joining the millions of other Americans that want to eliminate the income/payroll tax system. One of the reasons the current tax system has been able to survive for so many years is because select groups have been paid off with these deductions and have been convinced that somehow they are paying less than others.

It's time to put the current income/payroll tax system out of business and replace it with a much fairer system - the FAIRtax.

For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

Want to Kill the Death Tax?  
Only the FAIRtax can Pull the Trigger!

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Testament my wish

What Say You? TLoury@att.net

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HABITATLS.ORG

# Medicare Annual Wellness Visit



## 5 Questions to Ask at Your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

By Marisa Rogers, MD, MPH,  
Chief Medical Officer, Oak Street Health  
(NAPSI)—Your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit is an opportunity for you and

your primary care provider to check in on your health and create a personalized plan for moving forward. A trusted relationship with your provider helps ensure you have support and guidance whenever health needs arise. To get the most out of your visit, here are 5 questions you can ask to help you maintain or improve your health:

Do any changes need to be made to my medications?

Be sure to review your current medications and supplements during your visit, especially if you're seeing a new provider. It's important to know whether you're taking the appropriate medications and if any refills will be needed. If you're having issues with your current medication(s), let your provider know. If you are prescribed a new medicine, ask if there are any side effects or interactions with your current medication(s). Make sure you're

comfortable knowing how often and for how long you should take a particular medication.

What health screenings or tests do you recommend for me?

Depending on your age and other risk factors, your provider may recommend screening tests for conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, osteoporosis and colorectal cancer. If you're female, your provider may recommend screenings for breast and/or cervical cancer. For males, screening for prostate cancer may be recommended. Be sure to disclose if you have any personal or family history of certain cancers or diseases, as this may increase your risk.

What vaccinations do I need this year?

As people get older, their immune system gets weaker, making it harder for their body to fight off infections. This makes older

adults more susceptible to illnesses such as the flu, pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and shingles. Complications from these conditions can lead to long-term illness, hospitalization and even death.

Based on your lifestyle and other risk factors, your provider may recommend specific vaccines that could reduce your risk.

What can I do to stay independent as I age?  
Aside from treating your health issues, your provider wants to make sure you have the information you need to improve your health and prevent other problems from occurring. Ask about any changes you should make in your diet, which physical activities you can do and what habits you should start or stop. As you age, maintaining mobility is essential for preserving independence and preventing injury. Mental health also plays an important role in

*Continued page 10*

503-956-8533 (Hawaiian Shirt Day!)

Join us for lunch!  
TUESDAYS 11:30 to 1:00  
WARFIELD AUDITORIUM  
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Wildwood, FL 34785

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Service Above Self

## Lake County Detention Center Public Booking Log

See the frequently updated public booking log of those recently charged in Lake County. Go to:  
<http://tomlpublishing.com/category/villages-news/lady-lake-police-dept/>  
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# LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

SEE MORE ABOUT PARKS & TRAILS IN LAKE COUNTY

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

**Jun 05**  
Ride the Cyclone  
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Theatre South Playhouse in Various  
Six teens die in a freak coaster accident and are given one chance to return to life. They compete through bold, unforgettable songs in this darkly comi...

**Jun 05**  
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.

**Jun 05**  
Exploration Hike  
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Ferndale Preserve in Clermont  
Join staff and explore the habitats and species of Ferndale Preserve.

**Jun 06**  
KLB Cleanup Guild - Quest for a Cleaner Lake County  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Fish Camp Rd.- Grand Island 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

**Jun 06**  
Wetland Excursion  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Flat Island Preserve in Leesburg  
Join us for a fast-paced guided hike at Flat Island Preserve to explore the diverse ecosystems within the preserve, including the plants and animals

**Jun 07**  
Paddling Adventure - Lake Norris  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lake Norris Black Water Creek in Eustis  
Join a guided paddle on scenic Black Water Creek, part of the Wekiva River System. Spot ibis, storks, osprey, and warblers

**Jun 10**  
Watershed Wednesdays  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Hickory Point Preserve Pavilion in Tavares  
Join us monthly for Watershed Wednesdays to learn how lakes, streams, wetlands, and uplands connect, with rotating presentations on shorelines

**Jun 11**  
Clearwater: A Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival  
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM Savannah Center in Lady Lake  
Clearwater is a seasoned, professional band in Central Florida playing the hits from Creedence Clearwater Revival. Enjoy this multi-media live concert

**Jun 11**  
Cooking with Chef Danny  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Grove House Restaurant in Howey-in-the-Hills  
Join us for an unforgettable evening as Chef Danny takes you on a culinary journey! Watch and learn as he creates Loaded Baked Potato Soup, Meatloaf, and more

**Jun 12**  
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!

**Jun 13**  
Free Community Plant Swap  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Discovery Gardens in Tavares  
Join us for a one-day Plant Swap and connect with fellow gardeners. Bring healthy, pest-free, labeled plants to trade, discover new additions

**Jun 14**  
Citrus Tower 70th anniversary  
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Citrus Tower in Clermont  
This year, the iconic Citrus tower will be celebrating 70 years of existence. To mark this occasion, on June 14, a grand celebration will be held.

**Jun 19**  
Summer Yard Sale  
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora  
Don't miss Renninger's Summer Yard Sale. Clean out your unwanted items and sell them at this show. Antique Center. Flea Market (Saturday and Sunday).

**Jun 20**  
Insects and Other Invertebrates  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Ellis Acres Reserve in Paisley  
Join us on a trek and discussion about the life cycles, habitat, and natural history of insects and other invertebrates.

**Jun 20**  
Afternoon Tea  
1:00 PM - 3:00 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, freshly baked and more

**Jun 26**  
Stories of Water  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Crooked River Preserve in Clermont  
Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the story of water at Crooked River Preserve. Limit: 15 participants. Reservations are required.



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# LL Chamber Luncheon

The may networking lunch was held at Texas roadhouse in Lady Lake. There many door prizes and quality networking. Every business puts their business card in the basket, names are drawn prizes are won, pictures are taken.



**Lady  
Lake  
Chamber  
Come  
Join  
Us!**

# LL Chamber Gala Event

The Lady Lake area Chamber of Commerce hosted their gala decades of dedication. Here is a sneak peek of a few of the costumes. The night included awards, a delicious

dinner by Eaton Beach, DJ Grooving Nikki, and even a lip-synch battle where the bankettes (Citizens First Bank) Took home the trophy with their performance of for the love of

money by the O'Jays. Presenting sponsor for the event, Adventhealth Waterman.



## Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?

- **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!**



# Annual Wellness

*Continued from page 6*

influencing your cognitive function and quality of life. Strong social connections help reduce isolation and are linked to longer, healthier lives.

Will I need a follow-up exam sooner than one year?

Ask your provider's opinion on the best follow-up schedule for you. Based on your current health or risk factors, your provider may want to see you sooner or more frequently than once a year. Also, be sure to ask what you should do in the event of having a sudden illness or symptoms. Your provider may be able to see you for urgent visits, allowing you to avoid the emergency room for minor illnesses.

At Oak Street Health, we deliver personalized, preventive primary care

through a model that was created to meet the unique needs of older adults. Our providers get to know you by listening to you and understanding your history and goals. We plan your health journey together to help you get more from the years ahead. By staying on top of health concerns, we help our patients stay healthy and live life more fully.

To find an Oak Street Health location nearby, visit [oakstreethealth.com/locations](http://oakstreethealth.com/locations) or call 855-252-6756.

## Health Exam

### The Health Exam Many Don't Know They Need

(NAPSI)—If you are like most Americans, you wait until you notice changes in your vision before making an appointment for an eye exam. According to a poll conducted by the American

Academy of Ophthalmology, only about one-third of adults know that many vision-threatening eye diseases begin without any noticeable symptoms.

“In the early phases of eye disease, your brain tries to fill in gaps in vision. That means many people with eye disease are walking around thinking they have 20/20 vision, or that they don't need to get their eyes checked at all,” said Laura Fine, MD, EyeCare America® volunteer and ophthalmologist in Boston.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends that all healthy adults get a medical eye exam at least once in their 20s, twice in their 30s, and as recommended by an ophthalmologist in their 40s and beyond. People who have a family history of eye disease or preexisting health conditions, such as diabetes, may need to come in

more often. If you're uninsured or underinsured, EyeCare America may be able to help with a no-out-of-pocket-cost medical eye exam.

“Regular eye exams throughout adulthood are important to catch eye diseases and conditions early, before symptoms appear,” Dr. Fine said. “For some diseases, once vision is lost, it cannot be restored.”

Waiting Could Cost You Your Vision  
Take the case of Peggy Wellman. She went to get her eyes checked, thinking she only needed a new eyeglass prescription. Instead, she was told she had lost most of her peripheral vision to advanced glaucoma and needed surgery.

The diagnosis was a complete shock to Wellman. Although surgery kept her from losing any more vision, it could not restore the sight she had already lost. Had her eye

*Continued on page 11*

JUNE

## Children

### Recurring Children's Events

#### Mondays

**Craft Kits- Every Monday while supplies lasts**  
Grab a take-home craft kit from the Youth Department and get creative! Kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

**Alphabet Adventures- Every Monday at 11:30 AM**  
Join us for a fun and engaging early literacy program where little ones explore a new letter each session. Children will learn words associated with the letter through interactive activities, enjoy a themed story, and create a simple craft to take home.

#### Tuesdays

**Tiny Tots Toddler Sensory Play- Every Tuesday at 10:30 AM (Ages 1-3)**  
Enjoy a hands-on sensory play experience filled with fun textures and activities. This program supports early learning, creativity, and motor skill development.

**Summer Crafting- Every Tuesday at 3:30 PM**  
Let creativity shine with fun, hands-on crafts inspired by the summer season! Kids can explore different materials, make colorful creations, and take home their own masterpieces. Perfect for young artists who love to create and imagine!

#### Wednesdays

**Storytime- Every Wednesday at 10:30 AM (Ages 5 and under)**  
Enjoy a fun-filled Storytime with books, songs, and a craft! Listen to a story and sing along to favorite tunes.  
\*\*\*Special summer storytime events are listed below.  
\*\*\*June 3- Truck Rodeo Storytime  
\*\*\*June 24- Police Dept Storytime

**Stories with Scarlett- Every Wednesday at 3 PM**  
Spend time reading to Scarlett, a gentle library dog who enjoys stories and lots of pets. A relaxing way for kids to practice reading and grow their confidence!

#### Thursdays

**Poke' Pals: Trainer Academy- June 11 @ 3:30 PM**  
Join fellow trainers to learn, trade, and play the Pokémon Trading Card Game in a fun, supportive setting. Build your deck, sharpen your skills, and take on friendly matches. Perfect for teens ready to level up their trainer game!


#### Fridays

**Pokémon Summer Party- June 5 @ 3:30 PM**  
Get ready for a fun-filled celebration with games, activities, and Pokémon-themed excitement! Kids can test their trainer skills, enjoy crafts, and join in on the adventure. Perfect for young Pokémon fans ready to catch 'em all!

**Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime- Every Friday at 10:30 AM (Age up to 18 months)**  
Designed for babies up to 18 months, this program features gentle stories and playful activities. Enjoy bonding time while supporting early development.

**Kids BINGO- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 3:30 PM**  
B-I-N-G-O! Come play a kid-friendly version of the classic game and see if you can shout "Bingo!" first.


**Video Games!- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 3:30 PM (Ages 10-18)**  
Join fellow gamers for exciting competitions in Mario Kart and a variety of other video games. Fun, friends, and friendly rivalry await!



## Teens

**D&D with Grand Mage Miranda- June 4 @ 2 PM (Ages 13-18)**  
Teens are invited to dive into the world of storytelling, strategy, and imagination. Work together to create characters, solve challenges, and embark on exciting adventures in a guided group setting.

**Book Bedazzling- June 25 @ 3:30 PM**  
Give your favorite books a glow-up with gems, glitter, and creative flair! Teens can personalize their book covers and make them truly one-of-a-kind. Perfect for crafty readers who love to express their style!



## Children Special Events

**Dave the Magician June 4 at 10:30 AM**  
Get ready to be amazed with mind-blowing tricks, laughter, and interactive fun! Dave the Magician will captivate kids with a lively show full of surprises and wonder. Perfect for children who love a little magic and a lot of fun!

**C.A.R.E Foundation Wildlife Show June 11 at 10:30 AM**  
Meet incredible rescued wildlife up close and learn how they are cared for at a local sanctuary. This interactive show introduces animals that can't live in the wild and shares their unique stories of survival and care. Perfect for kids who love animals and want to learn how to protect them!

**JiggieMan Show June 18 at 10:30 AM**  
Get ready for a high-energy show full of laughter, silly stunts, and amazing physical comedy! JiggieMan uses music, juggling, and oversized props to get kids involved and giggling from start to finish. Perfect for children who love interactive fun and nonstop entertainment!

**Science Heroes Show June 25 at 10:30 AM**  
Get ready for an action-packed adventure where science saves the day! Through exciting experiments and interactive storytelling, kids will discover how science can be used to solve real-world problems. Perfect for curious minds who love hands-on fun and big discoveries!

## Adult

### Mondays

**ESL- Every Monday at 10 AM**  
This program is designed for individuals looking to improve their English language skills in a supportive environment. Registration is required and attendance is a commitment; once you sign up, the instructor will contact you with next steps.

**Movie Mondays- Every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 3 PM**  
Enjoy a monthly movie screening at the library in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Sit back, watch a great film, and snack on free, delicious popcorn.

**Page Turners Book Club- June 29 at 5:30 PM**  
Join us for an evening discussion of *The Banned Bookshop* of Maggie Banks by Shauna Robinson. Share your thoughts, connect with fellow readers, and enjoy a lively conversation about this charming novel.

### Tuesdays

**BINGO- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 2 PM**  
Enjoy a classic game of bingo in a fun and friendly atmosphere! Test your luck, win prizes, and socialize with others. Perfect for adults looking for a relaxing and entertaining time!

### Wednesdays

**SHINE- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 2 PM**  
SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Get free, unbiased help with your Medicare questions from trained Florida SHINE volunteers. Learn about coverage options, benefits, and enrollment to make informed healthcare decisions.

### Fridays

**Crochet Club- Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 3 PM**  
Join our welcoming crochet group open to all ages and skill levels, with guidance available for beginners learning the basics. Supplies are provided, but you're welcome to bring your own; children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Social Shuffle- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 2 PM**  
Join us for a fun and social card game session featuring Swoop, a game that's easy to learn, quick to play, and super fun. Registration is required, so be sure to sign up and get ready to shuffle, play, and connect with others.

**Apple Tech Support- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at 10 AM**  
Learn more about your Apple devices in this helpful session led by a volunteer. Enjoy a short presentation followed by time for questions about iPads, iPhones, and iMacs.

## Special Adult Events

**Wetland Wonders Series: Fabulous Frogs- June 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM**  
Explore the fascinating world of frogs and their vital role in wetland ecosystems. Learn about their life cycles, behaviors, and the environmental challenges they face. Perfect for adults interested in nature, conservation, and wildlife.

**Cracker History- June 23 at 2 PM**  
Explore the rich history and culture of Florida's early "Cracker" settlers and their lasting impact on the state. Learn about pioneer life, traditions, and how this heritage continues to shape Florida today. Perfect for adults interested in local history and culture.

**Lisa's Arts and Crafts- June 25 at 2 PM (Sign up Required)**  
Creating a summer wreath to display at home! Supplies included.

Check out our website for more information at [mylakelibrary.org](http://mylakelibrary.org)

## CHAIR CHAT BY BRIGGITTE SMITH

Letter on the Salt Spring issue.

Letter was sent to the BCC on behalf of the MCREC, also this issue was on the agenda this week for the BCC, it was taken off the agenda for review in October (TBD).

When this issue was present in late April to the P&Z Commission the applicant rep, as well as the documentation provided by the County, mistakenly indicated the current water supply system had only on well. This was incorrect and likely influenced the Commission to approve the project or at least voided any questions of why not just upgrade the two existing well on USFS property.

There was a Community meeting on May 14th held by the County in Salt Springs, (I attended) as asked at the meeting there are no pending letters from the USFS that the current operation at Salt Spring is affecting their operation or any request to stop operating. The Community meeting was well run but highlighted the issues of concern and some key data gaps.

Just to be clear upgrading the wells and adding an additional storage tank to service this rural community is well-founded project, the need to change well locations lacks any substantial rational from a cost / technical basis.

Residents very concerned that moving the wells closer to their private wells could impact their wells as well as the nearby lake.

The new location as voiced by residents will reduce the size of the public park / ball field and create light pollution concerns.

As indicated by County staff they did not cost the well upgrade at the current location for comparison to the +\$3M planning budget estimate for the new facility – there are no detailed costs estimates to conduct a cost/benefit analysis.

(The slated for late 2027/early 2028 will likely cost more than this unclassified planning estimate & does not include required well abandonment)

The current wells are located on very small parcels within the Salt Spring USFS recreational facility (not sure of the size but it is large), there is room to add a second storage tank and work over the wells for upgrades from 10& 6 inch to two 12-inch wells.

Probably more info. that you want – attached is the letter sent by the MC Rep Exec Committee to the County Commissioners ahead of the meeting that was set for May 19th that is now delayed until Oct as well as pictures I took at the site.

## Health Exam

*Continued from page 10*

disease been caught earlier, her sight may have been preserved.

“The best care is preventive care,” Dr. Fine said. “You probably go to the dentist regularly, not just when you notice a toothache. You should prioritize eye health in the same way for the best chance at a lifetime of healthy vision.”

Surprising Benefits of an Eye Exam

An eye exam can pick up health issues beyond eye diseases. That's because the blood vessels and nerves at the back of the eye reflect your overall health and can

signal the start of certain conditions, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, or vitamin deficiencies.

Other diseases an ophthalmologist can help diagnose include:

Diabetes. Diabetes is a leading cause of vision loss in the United States. Early signs of diabetes can appear in the eye before vision is affected.

Heart disease. A growing body of research shows that eye health and heart health are closely linked. An ophthalmologist can spot early signs of heart disease by examining the blood supply to the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

Stroke. Loss of side vision, sudden blind

spots, blurry vision, double vision, or sensitivity to light can all signal a stroke. Plaque deposits in the arteries of the eye could be a sign that emergency medical attention is needed.

How to Maintain Healthy Vision

May is Healthy Vision Month but any time is a good time to have regular eye exams. The easiest way to protect your sight is to have regular eye exams.

If you are unable to pay for a medical eye exam, EyeCare America may be able to help. The program provides exams for adults 18 and older who are uninsured or underinsured. See if you qualify for a no-out-of-pocket-cost medical eye exam at [aao.org/eyecare-america](http://aao.org/eyecare-america).



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FROM THE DESK OF  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE**



**Attorney General James Uthmeier Charges Florida Keys Predator who faces up to 100 Years in Prison**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that Jacob Rookey, 21,

of Cudjoe Key, has been arrested and charged with 1 count of Promotion of Child Sexual Abuse Materials (CSAM), one count of Possession of CSAM, one count of Transmission of CSAM by Electronic Device, two counts of Solicitation of CSAM, three counts of Generated Altered Sexual Images, three counts of Generated CSAM, and seven counts of Promotion of Animal Sexual Abuse Materials.

“Trading in material that involves the sexual exploitation of children and animals is what keeps the sick market for this material alive,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “We will seek the maximum punishment under the law for predators who perpetuate this abusive trade.”

“Preying on our community's most innocent and vulnerable will never be okay in Florida. FDLE will investigate these vile crimes and work with Attorney General James Uthmeier's statewide prosecutors to ensure you do not have the opportunity to victimize our children ever again,” said FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass. “We

urge parents and guardians to talk to your children and learn more about what they are putting online. Prevention is the best way to deter crime. Visit the Secure Florida website, which is maintained by the FDLE Cyber Crime and Telecommunications Bureau.”

The investigation into Rookey was launched when the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) received a cyber tip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that Rookey was possessing, viewing, and transmitting CSAM via Snapchat. BSO identified Rookey by his IP address and determined that jurisdiction belonged to FDLE Florida Keys.

FDLE obtained and executed subpoenas and search warrants that led to the discovery of communications in which Rookey was buying/selling CSAM and animal sexual abuse materials as well as soliciting minors to send him CSAM. In many of the communications, Rookey was posing as an underage girl.

Rookey was subsequently arrested. If convicted as charged, Rookey faces up to 100 years in the Florida Department of Corrections. The investigation is ongoing, and more charges may be filed as needed.

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Jillian Tate in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.

**Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Takedown of Multi-Million Dollar Retail Theft Enterprise, 14 Arrests**

Courtesy of the Office of the Attorney General

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier announced the arrest of 14 individuals for their roles in a multi-county criminal enterprise that dealt in and trafficked stolen retail and construction materials.

“Our Organized Retail Task Force brings law enforcement agencies together to get the maximum punishment for these criminal enterprises,” said Attorney General James Uthmeier. “Enterprises like this take millions of dollars in products off the shelves, and consumers foot the bill as retailers try to recover the costs. Thanks to interagency collaboration, we dismantled this crime ring from the top down, and we will hold them accountable.”

“This operation exposed a highly organized criminal enterprise that stretched far beyond county and state lines,” said Hillsborough Sheriff Chad Chronister. “Through strong partnerships and relentless investigative work, we were able to dismantle a network responsible for millions of dollars in stolen merchandise and illegal profits. Organized retail theft impacts businesses, consumers, and entire communities, and we remain committed to holding those responsible fully accountable.”

“We are grateful to Attorney General James Uthmeier, Sheriff Chronister and every agency involved for their dedication to holding these criminals accountable and keeping Florida's retail community safe,” said R. Scott Shalley, President/CEO of the Florida Retail Federation. “Organized retail theft costs Florida businesses and consumers millions of dollars each year, and

operations like this one demonstrate that there are real consequences for those who choose to exploit our community. This is exactly the kind of interagency collaboration the Organized Retail Task Force was built for, and we will continue standing alongside law enforcement to protect Florida's businesses, workers and consumers.”

In November 2025, law enforcement officers assigned to the Organized Retail Theft Task Force became aware of a criminal enterprise based out of the Rengifo family residence in Lutz.

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office took the lead on an undercover operation, conducting multiple buys. Investigators witnessed items, including power tools, electrical supplies, plumbing equipment, air conditioning components, paint, and other retail and construction materials, displayed in a retail distribution manner.

This criminal ring targeted The Home Depot locations and construction sites, stealing retail and construction materials and delivering them in bulk to the Rengifo residence, where the Rengifo family was receiving, storing, and reselling them at prices substantially below the known fair market value.

A financial investigation revealed that multiple bank accounts associated with the defendants were utilized to process proceeds derived from trafficking stolen property. Subpoenaed bank records show that the defendants managed over \$7.6 million in gross transactional activity across the accounts between January 2025 and February 2026. The funds were utilized to purchase items, including luxury vehicles, jewelry, and extensive international travel.

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



**Governor Ron DeSantis Signs House Bill 757 to Expand School Safety Measures at Colleges and Universities**

MIAMI, Fla. — The 5th Annual Commissioner's Summit focused on

school safety and security, Governor Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 757 into law. This legislation further strengthens protections for students, faculty, and staff across Florida's educational institutions and builds on Florida's nation-leading school safety framework. The legislation expands key safety and security measures to the state's colleges and universities, reinforcing the state's commitment to maintaining safe learning environments at every level of education.

"We've made historic strides to implement school safety measures that are working to protect our schools. Today, I was proud to build on these efforts by signing HB 757, which enhances campus security requirements and best practices at our colleges and universities throughout Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We can have the highest academic standards, the strongest workforce programs, and the most innovative pathways for students, but must also continue our focus on the safety of our students and educators."

"Thanks to Governor Ron DeSantis' leadership, Florida has set the national standard for school safety, and House Bill 757 builds on that strong foundation by extending critical protections to our state colleges and universities," said Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas. "By extending the Guardian Program to higher education institutions, we are equipping campuses with additional tools to help safeguard students and professors. Every student deserves the opportunity to learn in a safe and secure environment, and this legislation reinforces Florida's unwavering commitment to protect our schools."

**Florida House Bill 757:**

Expands participation in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to include Florida's public postsecondary institutions.

Strengthens protections near schools by creating a second-degree felony charge for discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school.

Requires public postsecondary institutions to develop active assailant response plans, threat management teams to identify and address potential safety risks, and family reunification procedures in the event of an emergency.

The Guardian Program was created in 2018 through the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The program allows trained individuals to serve as armed guardians on school campuses to deter and respond to active assailant incidents. Under the program, guardians must undergo extensive screening and training requirements provided by local sheriffs' offices, including psychological

evaluations, drug screenings, and at least 144 hours of rigorous training.

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has enhanced school safety efforts by investing:

\$1.6 billion through the Safe Schools Allocation to support school safety officers, guardians and other campus security initiatives across Florida schools.

\$955 million in the Mental Health Allocation to expand student mental health services and early intervention support in schools.

\$258 million for school hardening grants and facility security improvements to strengthen physical safety measures at schools.

\$39 million for mental health awareness and assistance professional development for teachers.

\$34 million for the Guardian Program to provide training and expand participation.

\$21 million for the Canine Program and District Threat Management Coordinators.

\$103 million for technology services to support safe schools programs.

\$83 million for Jewish Day Schools to help protect against antisemitism.

**Governor Ron DeSantis Unveils Statue Honoring "Father of the Constitution" James Madison in Florida's Madison County**

MADISON, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis unveiled a new statue honoring President James Madison as part of Florida's continued celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. Madison is known as the "Father of the Constitution" because of his contributions during the American Revolution, and this statue honors his lasting legacy for both the nation and the state of Florida. With today's dedication, Florida has completed the placement of statues honoring every Founder represented by a Florida namesake county.

"We honor President James Madison for his integral role in the founding of our nation and the American acquisition of Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "As part of our commemoration of America's semiquincentennial this year, we have unveiled statues of great Americans throughout our state. With this new statue in Madison County, we now have statues of our Founding Fathers in every Florida county that is named for a founder. These statues symbolize Florida's commitment to celebrating our nation's history and the great men who laid the foundation for the American experiment."

"President Madison understood the importance of long-term thinking and responsible governance," said Florida DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. "That same principle guides our work today as we protect Florida's natural resources and support responsible growth across the state."

"This statue stands as a powerful tribute to the brilliance of James Madison's statecraft and highlights his often-overlooked role in bringing Florida into the United States," said Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd. "It's a legacy reminding us that individual liberty rests on limited government, personal responsibility, and a deep respect for the rule of law—ideas

we still value in Florida."

"As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of our founding, it is particularly fitting that the State of Florida today is honoring James Madison, the chief architect of the U.S. Constitution and our nation's fourth president," said Dr. J. Robert McClure III, President and CEO of the James Madison Institute. "Madison authored many of the Federalist Papers that led to the ratification of the Constitution and championed the passage of the Bill of Rights. The James Madison Institute is honored to have been included in the ceremony unveiling the statue of our namesake."

Born in Virginia in 1751, James Madison emerged as one of the most influential political thinkers of the founding generation. Though he did not serve on the battlefield, his contributions in government proved indispensable to the revolutionary cause. He played the leading role in organizing the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and introduced the Virginia Plan, which became the blueprint for the United States Constitution. His authorship of key essays in *The Federalist Papers*—through which he articulated the principles of federalism, checks and balances, and representative government—and his leadership in securing the Bill of Rights earned him the title "Father of the Constitution."

Madison later served as a close advisor to President George Washington in Congress and as Secretary of State under Thomas Jefferson, helping oversee transformative events such as the Louisiana Purchase. As America's fourth president, he led the nation through the War of 1812 and helped solidify the United States as an enduring independent republic.

Madison's legacy is also deeply connected to Florida's history. During his presidency, he authorized the annexation of

West Florida in 1810 and supported efforts to bring East Florida under American control, laying critical groundwork for Florida's eventual acquisition and path to statehood. In recognition of his role, Madison County was named in his honor in 1827.

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, Frederick Douglass, and Calvin Coolidge.

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](http://America250FL.com), the state's official hub for the Semiquincentennial celebration.

**Governor Ron DeSantis Makes Four Judicial Appointment Shelby Senn, of Wildwood, to serve as Judge on the Sumter County Court**

Senn has served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit since 2017. Previously, she served as a Certified Legal Intern in the Fifth Circuit State Attorney's Office. She earned her bachelor's degree from Florida State University and her juris doctor from Barry University. Senn fills a judicial vacancy created by the enactment of Senate Bill 2508.

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**WARNER FAMILY SPORTS FOUNDATION**  
**"FAIRWAYS FORE FUTURES"**  
**GOLF CLASSIC**

**LAST CALL FOR CHAMBER GOLFERS!**

**HARBOR HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**  
 6538 Lake Griffin Rd.  
 Lady Lake, FL 32159

**MONDAY, June 1st!** Shotgun at 1pm Includes Dinner

**FUNDS RAISED TO SUPPORT CENTRAL FLORIDA SPORTS**  
**IT'S ALL FOR THE KIDS & THEIR FAMILIES**

Callaway Demo is open from 9-1pm (Registration opens at 11am)  
 Four Tee-Boxes: Men, Women, Seniors M/W 65 and over  
 Air Cannon on Par 4 - great prizes!  
 Hole in One for \$5000 (and if you miss, there's prizes, too!)  
 Silent Auction with great items!  
 Golf Ball Drop - at Happy Hour  
 Goody Bags for Players with a great featured item!  
 Complimentary Beverages (beer, water, soda, Gatorade)  
 Complimentary Snacks on Course & Dinner

*get all this!*

Registration & Sponsors:



**Martin Gramatica, Honorary Chair**  
 Tampa Bay Bucs Super Bowl Champion

**Callaway**

**Youth Sports Kids & Families Communities**  
 Register:  
[warnerfamilysports.org/Classic](http://warnerfamilysports.org/Classic)  
 Cindi Mainer  
**352.933.2748**  
[warnersportsfdn.com](http://warnersportsfdn.com)

**Plus**

- Tent Sponsors with goodies
- Putting Contest
- Closest to the Pin Contests
- Longest Drive Contests
- Seniors Long Drive Contest
- Long Driver on Hole 18

*With*

- Dinner & Awards Ceremony
- Contest Prizes & Champions Awards:
- Men, Women, and Co-Ed

**ClearView**  
 Individuals \$125  
 Foursomes \$450\*  
 \*holding for chamber members!

**SUMMER Gal's NIGHT OUT**

**JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 2026 4-8 PM**

*Come as you are - leave inspired!*

**WILDWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER**  
 6500 POWELL RD, WILDWOOD, FL 34785

**Vendors • Shopping • Interactive Booths • Fashion & Fun Stations**  
**• Raffles • Light Refreshments • Meaningful Connections**

A relaxing evening with friends that makes a real difference: Proceeds fuel IDW Foundation scholarships, helping women live boldly, bravely, and humbly in the purpose God designed for them.

Join the movement. Empower her future. Visit [www.idwfoundations.org](http://www.idwfoundations.org) for details!

**FREE ENTRY**

**Sponsorships & Booths available**

**SCAN**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN QR CODE**

*4th Annual*

**Power of Women**

**Bloom from Within: Hormones, Health & Happiness**

**October 27, 2026**  
**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

- Brunch & Mimosas
- Women Focused Vendors
- Uplifting Panel Discussion
- Door Prizes

**Water Oak Country Club**  
**216 Magnolia Dr, Lady Lake**

Questions, Call or email the Chamber  
 352-753-6029  
[Janet@LadyLakeChamber.com](mailto:Janet@LadyLakeChamber.com)

**Lady Lake AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**WATER OAK COUNTRY CLUB EXETER**

**LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION**

**You Are Invited!**

**Business 2 Business Networking Expo**

**August 27, 2026**  
**11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Lady Lake AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**WATER OAK**

Connect with industry leaders, grow your network, and boost your business—join us today!

**MEMBERS: \$175** | **Water Oak Country Club**  
**NON-MEMBERS: \$300** | 216 Magnolia Dr, Lady Lake

**PROUD SPONSORS:**

**WATER OAK COUNTRY CLUB EXETER**

**LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION**

*If your membership includes a discount or complimentary booth please call the office.*

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