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FREE



Jeanne Lazo, branch manager for The United Southern Bank in the Villages, hosted an after-hours event at the branch. Attendees enjoyed a lavish spread from local restaurants, and all attendees had a great time networking.



Love Inc. Sponsored the North Lake Chamber's September Networking Lunch at Eaton's Beach Sanbar & Grill. Wanda is pictured with the winner of her door prize, Rick Wiggins of Vascular Vein.

9-11 from aFar And UP Close

By Tom Loury

While watching TV on 911, I remember seeing the planes hit the tower when it happened. I remember during the crisis, the air space was shut down because there were 6 planes un-account for, only one was a high jacked plane, but they did not know it at the time. President Bush was rushed to Air Force one. It would come out later they zig zag around the Gulf of America while they could make sure he was safe and the crisis was over. They were thinking about shooting down any plane that did not respond. It was shocking!

Today they estimate 9,000 death from the attack. A third died in the towers, the others from related illnesses from the toxic fumes and dust. I remember seeing videos of people being helped down the streets covered in dust / soot and blood. On a video I saw one man dive under a vehicle to take cover he was trying to get to his people and was not in time, I think he was the CEO that lost over six hundred people in the towers.

The remembrance was phenomenal at the ceremonys many of the families were there and honoring the fallen. Mamdani the Mayor of New York attended after being ask not to come with 110,000 signatures presented to him!

Ocala Bringing a little closer…In Ocala there was a Chelation Center that close around that time, there no record from the FBI closing them, but there a person working there that was confused about the closing…Well was It? September 11, 2001, the climate for Middle Eastern-owned businesses changed overnight, leading to sudden operational shifts and the eventual closure of several small independent businesses—including this specific center on State Road 200. So we don't know for sure what happened there and the FBI and the DOJ are not going to tell us. While the medical facility stopped regular operations shortly after that 911, the business entity itself lingered in state records until it was administratively dissolved by the state. WOW!

When I ask about the records it came from a source, the answer "you have a phenomenal memory!" it referred to ads in a local paper, while reading it suddenly disappeared, I could not get it back! I'm not sure I want too! That is our local connection to the 911 story (UP CLOSE). What the truth is ??? We reported!

Marion County A Lady that worked with us on the newspapers some time back was a Stewardess and would later be a Stewardess trainer. She was well traveled all over the world. She had trained one or two of the flight crew that went down on 911. She vowed to never fly again! She and her husband live quietly in Marion County!

If you have a story to tell about 911 send it to me, be brief and honest. tloury@att.net

AI and My Search For My Grandfather

By TomL

AI who is afraid of the big bad AI? I have to say something. I have been using AI for information and it is holding true to form.The reason the Social Media does not like AI is it tells the truth about them! I went on a search and ask AI if Social Media could brain wash people into doing bad thins and it said YES! It explained how and if you ask it it will tell you.

I decide last week to give it the real test. There has been extensive researches done on trying to find my Dad father my grandfather???

My dad was left at a children's home in Alliance Ohio for nursing care, he had been burned in a house fire they think. The nurse fostered him took him home for special nursing. Her name was Loury but she never adopted him. She told the children's home his father was a professional Timber Surveyer name John Mines.

No one could find anything about him, the other day I was working on my computer and ask AI about John Mines a professional Timber surveyer, BOOM there is was. It gave me his whole history about his job. In 1910 he did timber surveying, in 1920 he was an Engineer, 1930 he went back to timber surveying, in 1940 he took up farming which must have been. Some where in there my father was born probably out of wedlock. My dad was the black sheep of the family. He was suppose to be half Indian! That is all I know but AI found him when no-one else could!

I think AI will be just fine as long as you use it as a tool and don't ask it to build a business for you or ask it to do something bad. If AI builds your business it you won't own it! I think if someone ask AI to help them do something bad AI would inform the authorities.



Town News Lake County Events



The Lady Lake Police Department swore in our newest officer, Kelvin Rodriguez. Officer Rodriguez was raised right here in Lake County. He is married, has three children, and previously operated his own business. He graduated from the Institute of Public Safety Law Enforcement Academy at Lake Tech.

Join us in welcoming him!



We had a VIP visit Lady Lake this week. Very Important Pupper. Koda the Fluff stopped by to meet some of our Lady Lake Police officers — and judging by the photos, we're not sure who was more excited about it. Attachment.png ¬

Koda isn't just an adorable face. Along with her human, Jena McKinstry, she's known for supporting law enforcement and first responders through Smiles Fur Miles, using her considerable fluff and social media fame to help share public-safety messages and build positive connections between police and the communities they serve. She's even been recognized by the FBI for her work.

Thanks for stopping by, Koda! Your application for Chief of Paw-lice is officially under review

Lady Lake Launches Public Outreach and Survey

LADY LAKE - What makes Lady Lake, Lady Lake?

The Town of Lady Lake is launching a community branding and identity project designed to answer that question and create a clear, recognizable identity that reflects the community's character, history and future.

The project is being led by the Town's Communications Department in partnership with Inspire Placemaking, a planning and design firm specializing in helping communities develop a sense of place. The goal is simple: build a brand identity that Lady Lake can be proud of.

A municipal brand is more than a logo or tagline. It is how people think and feel about their community. The brand identity can influence everything from the look of road signs and facilities to the Town's website, social media, printed materials and other communications. A strong identity also helps residents quickly recognize official Town information, builds trust and community pride, and helps communicate what Lady Lake stands for.

This project begins by listening. Residents, business owners, Town employees, faith-based organizations, nonprofits and other stakeholders are encouraged to share what they believe makes Lady Lake special, what they value about the community and how they would like Lady Lake to be represented in the years ahead.

The Town will host a public outreach meeting and Commission workshop where participants can learn more about the project:

· **Public Outreach:** Wednesday, Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. – noon, Lady Lake Library

· **Commission Workshop:** Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 2:30 p.m., Lady Lake Town Hall

Those unable to attend the meeting can participate through an online survey. **The survey is available** online here.

Feedback gathered through the meetings and survey will help inform the development of Lady Lake's identity. The Town's current visual presence includes a variety of logos, colors, signage and other design elements across municipal facilities and programs, making the branding project an opportunity to create a more cohesive and recognizable identity.

Ultimately, the project comes down to one question the Town wants the community to help answer: What is Lady Lake to you?

###

Link: SURVEY: Lady Lake launches public outreach for branding Lady Lake, FL

N. Lake Chamber Board Members Swearing In



Chamber president Jason Pittman swore in new board member Mary Beth Dunn. Mary Beth is feeling a vacancy from a board member who had to resign.

Cybersecurity Unlocked:



Ask Our Expert Anything

Have a cybersecurity question you've always wanted to ask? Now's your chance!

Join Howard Davis, the Town of Lady Lake's IT cybersecurity expert, for the next program in our cybersecurity awareness series. This interactive session puts your questions at the center of the conversation.

Wondering how to spot a scam? Concerned about online banking or shopping? Not sure whether a suspicious email or text is legitimate? Curious about passwords, social media security, smartphones or safe internet browsing? Bring your questions and get practical, easy-to-understand guidance to help you stay safer online.

Lady Lake Events

Coffee with a Cop
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from a morning schedule at Target.
Target, Lady Lake, FL.
An informal meet-and-greet giving residents a chance to chat with local law enforcement officers over coffee.
Cost: Free.

Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market: Master Gardeners
Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM.
260 Rolling Acres Road, Lady Lake, FL.
Local market featuring fresh produce, crafts, live music, and special guidance from extension master gardeners.
Free admission.

Not Too Scary Halloween Boo Bash
Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM.
Guava Street Athletic Complex, 221 W. Guava Street, Lady Lake, FL.
Family-friendly Halloween celebration with safe trick-or-treating, festive activities, and local community booths.
Free.

Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market Returns Oct. 6 With More....





LADY LAKE — A community favorite is returning bigger than ever this fall. The Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market will celebrate its grand reopening Tuesday, Oct. 6, and continue every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex, 260 Rolling Acres Road.

Opening day will set the tone for the season with live music by Tyler Glynn and an exciting lineup of vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, cheeses, breads, local honey, ice cream, coffee, handmade arts and crafts, specialty goods and more.

This season, shoppers can look forward to several enhancements designed to make each Tuesday worth a return trip:

· 60 regular vendors — giving shoppers plenty of variety while making it easy to find their favorite vendors week after week.

· Market Bucks — with multiple opportunities to win money to spend with market vendors.

· Special market events — returning favorites such as the Strawberry Festival and Valentine's Market, along with new events including Pet Costume Contest and Wheel of Fortune Day.

· More live music — adding entertainment and atmosphere throughout the market season.

"We've really focused on making the market an experience — not just a place to shop," said Event Planner Amy Alicea. "With more consistent vendors, live music, Market Bucks and special events throughout the season, we want people to make Tuesday mornings at Rolling Acres part of their weekly routine. It's a great opportunity to shop local, meet your neighbors and enjoy everything our community has to offer."

The market is accessible by golf cart, bicycle, motorized scooter and wheelchair, making it convenient for residents and visitors to enjoy.

The Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market is made possible with the support of sponsors Encompass, Humana, CarePlus, The Villages Media Group and Seacoast Bank. Text LadyLakeMarket to 38276 for event and weather-related market updates or information, visit ladylakefl.gov or email market@ladylake.org.

Vendor spaces for the upcoming season are currently full. The Town of Lady Lake reminds prospective vendors to be cautious of online scams or individuals claiming to collect vendor fees on behalf of the Town. Official market information should be obtained directly through the Town of Lady Lake.

Link: Lady Lake Farmers and Crafts Market returns Oct. 6 with more vendors, live music and special events Lady Lake, FL

A Little Bird in the Villages

By Renée A. La Forest

Just before sunset on a Sunday evening in The Villages, I put a cardboard box on my front porch before heading through the garage to take it to the street for trash pickup. The box couldn't have been there for more than a minute. When I came around from the garage, it was occupied. Sitting quietly inside was a young bird, fully feathered, with wide, dark eyes and soft brown-gray markings.

In Florida, I suppose I should be grateful my surprise passenger had feathers.

One minute there was an empty box. The next, there was a bird sitting in it. I would eventually give him an appropriate name: Houdini. He did not appear injured, but he wasn't exactly flying either. He hopped, ran and made short, determined jumps.

More importantly, the sun was going down. Had this happened earlier, I could have backed away and watched. Instead, darkness was approaching, and I had to decide whether leaving him there was safest. I coaxed him, without touching him, into a larger box and placed it on my screened lanai for the night, protected from predators and my dogs. I didn't give him food or water. Mostly, I left him alone.

When helping means doing less

The little bird appeared to be a fledgling Northern Mockingbird, a young songbird that had left the nest but had not yet mastered flying. Fledglings may hop, run, hide in shrubs and attempt short flights while their parents continue caring for them nearby. To us, that can look remarkably like an abandoned baby.

But a healthy fledgling may simply be doing exactly what young birds do.

By morning, Houdini was gone

My plan was to return him to the covered front porch around 7 the next morning, place the box on its side where I had found him and retreat inside. There was just one problem: the bird was gone.

The lanai doors had been closed and the screens were intact, which meant I now had a very small fugitive somewhere among the furniture. I searched once and found nothing. On my second trip outside, I finally discovered him.

He was sitting in my rain bucket.

Apparently my carefully selected overnight accommodations had not met his standards.

At that point, the little fugitive had unquestionably earned his name. Getting Houdini back into the box required a slow, gentle pursuit around the lanai. He still wasn't flying, but he could certainly run, hop and evade the woman trying to help him.

Eventually, he hopped into the box. I carried him through the house and returned him to the front porch. When I opened it, Houdini jumped out and went directly to the corner beside my front door. It was the same corner where I had originally found him.

Maybe he wasn't lost

That changed the way I looked at the encounter. I had assumed that finding a young bird tucked into a corner of my porch meant something had gone wrong. Maybe nothing had. Perhaps that protected corner was exactly where a fledgling with limited flying skills had chosen to hide.

I went back inside and checked again about 10 minutes later. Houdini was gone.

I don't know whether his parents found him, he hopped into nearby landscaping or managed a short flight somewhere I couldn't see. I only know that he had escaped his box, climbed into a rain bucket, led me on a chase and eventually disappeared under his own power. He wasn't nearly as helpless as he looked.

Unable to reach someone for immediate guidance that Sunday evening, I had faced some basic questions: Should I touch him? Feed him? Leave him where he was? Was I helping, or making things worse? Often, the best thing we can do is leave a fledgling where we found it, keep pets and people away and give its parents the opportunity to continue caring for it.

Sunday night, I thought I was giving a helpless little bird somewhere safe to sleep. By Monday morning, Houdini seemed to know exactly where he wanted to be. Maybe he hadn't been lost at all.

I find myself paying more attention to the mockingbirds around my home now. I don't know where Houdini went that morning or whether I will ever see him again, but when I see a young mockingbird nearby, I know I'll wonder if it's him.



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



Sabel Trail Transmission Line which is the gas line but they want to hide the name Gas Line is trying to intrude again. They say they want our approval to use our land again. They came onto our land the first time and started doing studies on turtle and lizards with no regard to the land owner. They even sent a turtle handler??? I met him when I went and ask each one of them what their title was while they were all in my woods leaning up against a truck.

I recently had a visitor in my drive way by one of the Sabel Trail Gas Line employees. He told me he was a preacher from two county's away. He was surveying how people felt about the gas line. He took notes when I said I was going to lawyer up. But I am waiting until I see the pathway, but they have already expressed the fact that they want to go along side of the existing gas line which through my farm on two parcels. They want permission now to survey and come on my land. They said they would not start the project until 2029. Don't believe it. They have never told the truth before. I think they are saying that because an attorney would not want to wait three year for their money. The attorney that represented my wife and I the first time won't even return my calls. So don't believe what they say! You can see how they operate by who they hired to come see us and ask questions. It's our land, it does not belong to the state to approve this! It does not belong to the county to approve this. The county should be all over them legally! The gas line was in direct line with two school in Dunnellon so they just went around the east side of the schools. There are water source that could be compromised, the is danger of a leak and explosion, It devalues the property. But don't wait for the county to adjust your value they want the taxes. Sabel Trail you do not have my permission to do anything. Recently I heard the governor say how he protects our Eminent Domain HE DID NOT! THANKS DESANTIS!

I worked my butt off here for 56 years to get comfortable. I live on a deadened dirt road and they are intruding on me! They just think they can take it.

I heard the Veterans helping Veterans were losing one of their housing spot. The people protecting it don't have a staff it's mostly volunteer. I thank the people helping some others just want to obstruct. Help the veterans!

Remember back to school means the students bring home all kinds of illnesses. I know I have experienced it years ago. Be careful.

SI Overview

I have added publisher notes all through this that did not appear in the Gettysburg address but should have!

Citizens have rights and freedom in this country because those who came before you and fought for your freedom and some died! Don't take voting lightly.

The phrase "of the people, by the people, for the people" defines a true democracy where the power of the government comes from its citizens and serves their interests. Abraham Lincoln famously popularized these words in his Gettysburg Address!

What Each Part Means

· **Of the people:** The government gets its power and authority from the citizens, not from a king, queen, or ruling upper class. The people who run the government are regular citizens from the same community. **(Publishers Note added) NOT THE MAYOR!** They must have worked in the united States on a regular job for at least five years before running for office and must swear allegiance to the United Staes Constitution! A Free election means by the citizens vote not visitors!

· **By the people:** The citizens create the government and control it through voting. The people choose their leaders in free and fair elections and take part in the political process.

For the people: The government exists to help and protect the public. Its rules and actions are meant to support the safety, rights, and well-being of all citizens, rather than serving just one powerful person or group.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for November

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
Noon, October 23rd
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, October 28th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

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P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury
Phone: 352-804-1223 | Email: tloury@att.net

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Plan for Florida Beef Industry

Bring Down Cost!

By TomL

The price of beef as we remember just a few years ago. Is there a middle man? Is there a middle country? Are we being squeezed by China / Tyson Beef? The answer is a decade ago it started and yes we were and are being invaded. Remember China said the perfect way "to take over a country is take it without firing a shot!" They are imbedding themselves into our country. STOP THEM!

Here is what I think the answer is. Follow me now. People who want to be considered Agriculture must have acreage, Raise beef cows for self consumption and to sell at the market or private transaction. For instance you raise 5 steers, someone wants to buy a beef cow for the freezer. You sell a beef steer and send a copy to the state to prove you are raising to sell and to consume yourself.

Mean while the state will encourage hands on education on butchering, aging and packaging the beef correctly. The state also needs to address the quality of the beef before butchering. Butchering needs to be humanly done. Gainesville University had a program that taught this. I attended a processing plant. It was clean well explained and hands on processing. If every person that had acre raised a few beef steers there would not be a shortage. So what I am saying is when you make a list of education for the trades add raising live stock and butchering, along with Plumber, electrician, and etc.. Grass fed is very difficult. Probably not worth the effort. When they process the beef the animal has to be calm, not stressed. When aging the fat go ran-sit before the actual beef does so it needs to be monitored closely and beef needs to be aged, but properly.

Education is the answer to our food shortages! Not importing more out of country livestock or meat. Americans are resourceful, they can figure out how to do things without the federal government, surprise! This probably should be done on a state by state effort.

Florida AG is led by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Wilton Simpson.er of Agriculture in Florida! He needs to endorse this to make it work!

I attended a program before it was discontinued it was great.

They're Taking Our Land!

Cross Florida Barge Canal in the 1970's Started harassing the Marion County residents (Me they wanted to go through my farm) After great stress and a hard battle it was Halted in 1971 with the intent to look at it again in a few years.

Turnpike Extension 2015 started harassing residents Through great stress to the residents of Marion County and me Again they wanted to go through our farm!
A second attempt was made. Marion County Residents fought it to a stand still. Again they wanted to go through my farm.
Commissioners voted no build!

Then came the Sabel Trail Gas Line. A man came on my land and I threw him off. I did not know but he was the project engineer. It did not matter he had no business my property. My wife and I have been living and working on this property for 56 years. The lawyers moved in, the county folded, the state folded or approved it maybe it was their idea. Well I lost the battle, the gas line went in.

Again they come back they think because they paid me for a one time easement that now they can come back and push me around again and put a second gas line in my land. If that gas line ever exploded we would be dead now they want double jeopardy.

We have had people on our land that did not belong there. I ran them off. The Sabel Trail Transmission line (gas line) put a gate up at every property owner with the same gate combination from Alabama to Orlando. Our cows have been out no explanation on how the gate got open. The gas line is suppose to be silent. Not true they run a thing called the PIG it inspects the welds and clears the gas line of any obstructions. It's not silent!

The gas line reps have been notorious liars and make strategic moves on people. They want us to approve them coming on our land to survey. They want our approval but they say they are not going to do anything till 2029. What attorney would want to wait that long for their money?

The State of Florida should not put us through this. It's not their land! Not to use not to take! No money is worth them intruding on my wife and I. We are 84 years old and still working we won't be able to handle the stress they are producing!



What Say You? TLoury@att.net

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Active Shooter Preparedness

CISA aims to enhance active shooter preparedness through a "whole community" approach.

Overview

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, “active shooter” is defined as “one or more individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area." Active shooter incidents are often unpredictable and evolve quickly. Amid the chaos, anyone can play an integral role in mitigating the impacts of an active shooter incident.

In many cases, there is no pattern or method to the selection of victims by an active shooter, and these situations are by their very nature unpredictable and evolve quickly. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes - before law enforcement arrives on the scene - individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

CISA's Role

CISA aims to improve incident preparedness by employing a comprehensive community-wide strategy. It offers a range of no-cost products, tools, training, and resources to diverse stakeholders, supporting their efforts to effectively prepare for and respond to active shooter incidents.

CISA provides a comprehensive set of courses, materials, and workshops designed to equip individuals and organizations with the skills necessary to respond effectively to active shooter situations. These resources address pre-incident behavioral indicators, characteristics associated with active shooters, potential methods of attack, the formulation of comprehensive emergency action plans, and appropriate responses during such incidents.



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LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

SEE MORE ABOUT PARKS & TRAILS IN LAKE COUNTY
https://lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails

Oct 02 City of Leesburg's Home Run Flicks
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Pat Thomas Stadium in Leesburg
Grab your blankets, pack up your chairs, and bring the whole family for an unforgettable movie night at Pat Thomas Stadium!

Oct 02 First Friday - Historic Downtown Eustis
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Downtown Eustis - Eustis Street and Magnolia Avenue in Eustis
Join us every First Friday in Downtown Eustis for an evening of live music, more than 80 vendors, local shopping, and great food and drinks!

Oct 03 Fall in the Field Show
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora
Antique Center, Consignment, Street of Shops, The Stables, Pavilions, and Outdoors. Fall is here! Come shop a selection of vendors

Oct 03 Wetland Excursion
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Lake Norris Conversation Area in Eustis
Join us for a fast paced guided hike at Lake Norris Conservation Area to explore the diverse ecosystems within the Conservation Area including. Limit 15...

Oct 03 Sand Ballerz Spooky Spike Showdown Hickory Point Sand Volleyball & Soccer Tournament Festival
10:00 AM - 9:00 PM Hickory Point Recreational Park in Tavares
Join UF Health for the Sand Ballerz 6TH Annual Halloween "SPOOKY SPIKE SHOWDOWN" Sand Volleyball & Soccer Tournament Festival!

Oct 04 Bach's Coffee Cantata
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Sydonie Mansion in Mount Dora
First Coast Opera brings the work to life with a cast of narrator, soprano, bass, and instrumental ensemble, capturing the wit, charm…

Oct 05 Planting Day
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lake May Reserve in Eustis
Come join us to add some native plant diversity to Lake May Reserve by planting wildflowers.

Oct 08 Chef Danny's Cooking Class
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Grove House Restaurant in Howey-in-the-Hills
Join Chef Danny for a German-inspired cooking class featuring German potato soup, savory beef roulade with red cabbage, and a delicious apple fritter.

Oct 09 Discover Leesburg
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Towne Square, Downtown Leesburg in Leesburg
EVERY 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, Downtown Leesburg comes alive with an evening of shopping, live music, local vendors, and community fun!

Oct 09 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!

Oct 10 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 will participate.

Oct 10 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 habits and natural history of venomous and non-venomous snakes.

Oct 10 Fall Festival - Plant Sale & 4-H Open House
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Discovery Gardens in Tavares
Celebrate the season at our Fall Festival. Eat, learn, shop, and have fun at this free two-day community event held at Discovery Gardens.

Oct 10 Afternoon Tea
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Grove House Restaurant 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 goods...

Oct 10 Mount Dora Bicycle Festival
10:00 AM Gilbert Park in Mount Dora
Cycle Mount Dora Bicycle Festival offers scenic rides for a variety of skill levels, family-friendly fun and more.

Oct 10 Florida Military Collector Show
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Renninger's Antique Center in Mount Dora
The Florida Military Collector Show is a one day event on Saturday. It is one of the largest all military collector shows in the South East.

Oct 14 Watershed Wednesdays
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Hickory Point Pavilion in Tavares
Join us monthly for Watershed Wednesdays to learn how lakes, streams, wetlands, and uplands connect, with rotating presentations on shorelines of Florida

Oct 16 Fall Wildflowers and Grasses
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM PEAR Park (Nature Center/WCA) in Leesburg
Join us for a fall wildflower and native bunch grasses hike through the P.E.A.R.

Continued page 10



Annual Business 2 Business

The Annual Business 2 Business was a great success!

There were 50 vendors and around 100 attendees. We had a good mix of vendors and several new businesses. Carrabba's provided lunch for everyone. Thank you to our host, Water Oak Country Club Estates. Thank you to our sponsors, Campus USA Credit Union and Leaf Filer. Thank you to James Floyd from WQBQ 1410 for running the event.





























Annual Business 2 Business


















Annual Business 2 Business













North Lake
AREA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Join
The chamber

Lake County

Continued from page 7

Meadow and other ecosystems.

Oct 16 Haunted Historic Ethel | Friday
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Sorrento
Haunted Historic Ethel is a family-friendly event at Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Enjoy: FREE parking Tram ride Kids crafts

Oct 17 Open House
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Ellis Acres Reserve in Paisley
All about the seeds: when, where, and how.

Oct 17 Haunted Historic Ethel | Saturday
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Rock Springs Run State Reserve in Sorrento
Haunted Historic Ethel is a family-friendly event at Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Enjoy: FREE parking Tram ride Kids crafts

Oct 17 AmVets Post 1992 Annual Fall Festival
12:00 PM AmVets Post 1992 in Mount Dora
AmVets Post 1992 Annual Fall Festival open to the public. Food, live entertainment by Tripwire, raffles, auctions, and games.

Oct 20 Paddling Adventure - Stagger Mud Lake Run
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Powell's Campground in Astor
Launch from Powell's Campground for a guided paddle through Lake Dexter and Stagger Mud Lake. Enjoy scenic shorelines, wildlife viewing, and nearby Lake...

Oct 23 Stories of Water - Pasture Reserve
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pasture Reserve in Groveland
Join us for a casual guided hike as we share the Story of Water at Pasture Reserve. Limit 15 participants. Reservations required.

Oct 24 Spooky Walk with PAWS
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM W.T. Bland Public Library in Mount Dora
Children ages 12 & under and their adults are invited to a family-friendly spooky walk in Forest Preserve with licensed PAWS therapy dogs. Treats provid...



OCTOBER

Check out our website for more information at mylakelibrary.org

Children

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)
Tiny Tots ages 1-3 will enjoy a hands-on sensory play experience filled with fun textures and activities. This program supports early learning, creativity, and motor skill development.

Storybook Studio (Craft and a Story)- Every Tuesday at 3:30 PM
Storybook Studio is a fun family program that brings stories to life through creativity and imagination. Families will enjoy a story together before creating a craft inspired by the book. Perfect for making memories while reading and creating together!

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 fall Storytime events are listed below.**
***October 28th-Trick or Treat Storytime**
Dress up in your favorite costume and enjoy a fun-filled morning of stories, songs, and smiles! Then join us as we parade through the library to show off everyone's creative costumes.

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!

Fridays

Baby Sprouts Story and Playtime- Every Friday at 10:30 AM (Ages 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.

Bricks & Beyond!- Every 1st Friday at 3:30 PM
Bricks and Beyond offers hands-on building fun with LEGO® bricks and larger DUPLO® blocks. Great for developing creativity, problem-solving, and fine motor skills.

Kids BINGO- Every 2nd 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.

Poke Pals- Every 3rd Friday at 3:30 PM (All Ages)
Join us for Pokémon-themed games, activities, and fun! Perfect for kids and teens who love Pokémon.

Video Games!- Every 4th 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!

Family Movie- October 30 at 3:30 PM
Bring the whole family for a fun movie at the library! Sit back, relax, and enjoy a family-friendly film with popcorn and friends.

Teens

Trainer Academy- October 8th at 3:30 PM
Learn how to play the Pokémon Trading Card Game, build your skills, and enjoy friendly matches in a fun environment!

Cemeterrarium Creations- October 15th at 3:30 PM
Create a spooky mini cemetery inside a terrarium! Teens will design and decorate their own creepy cemeterrarium to take home.



Adult Special Events

Sound Therapy and Meditation- October 1st from 2-3:30 PM Room 219
Discover the calming benefits of sound therapy and meditation in this relaxing presentation. Learn simple techniques to reduce stress, improve mindfulness, and support overall well-being.

The Haunted History of Florida- October 14th from 2-3 PM Room 219
Uncover Florida's spookiest stories in this fascinating presentation on the state's haunted history. Explore eerie legends, mysterious locations, and chilling tales from the Sunshine State's past.

Growing Citrus at Home- October 19th from 2-3 PM Room 219
Learn how to successfully grow citrus trees at home, from planting and care to harvesting fresh fruit. Discover tips for keeping your trees healthy and productive in Florida's climate.

Chair Yoga.
Every Monday Starting Oct 5 to Dec 7
Improve flexibility, balance, and relaxation with this gentle chair yoga class. Space is limited, so reserve your spot by emailing the instructor at jeannesenioryoga@gmail.com

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 1st 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. Movie Presentation: Project Hail Mary (PG-13)

Tuesdays

BINGO- Every 3rd Tuesday at 2-3:30 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 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 2-3:30 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.

Thursdays

Let's Talk Books- October 22nd at 2 PM
Love talking about books? Join us to share three things you've read recently—whether you loved them, hated them, or anything in between. Discover new recommendations and enjoy great conversation with fellow readers.

Lisa's Arts & Crafts- October 22 at 2-4 PM
Get creative with a fun, hands-on craft project in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. No experience is needed—just bring your creativity and enjoy making something special!

Fridays

Crochet Club- Every 2nd Friday at 3-4 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 4th Friday at 2-4 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 4th 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.

FairTax

Inflation is often described as "too few dollars chasing too few goods" While that may be an oversimplification of a complex issue, it captures an important truth: prices rise when the supply of money and purchasing power grows faster than the supply of products and services available for purchase. Let's see how the FAIRtax addresses the "too few goods" side of that equation by encouraging more production.

The current income/ payroll tax system taxes wages, profits, interest, dividends, capital gains and business income. The FAIRtax removes federal taxes from the production process and places the tax at the point of final retail sale. By doing so, the FAIRtax would stop penalizing work, savings, investment and business expansion.

Under our present system, businesses face corporate income taxes, payroll taxes, tax compliance costs, depreciation rules and other federal burdens that raise the cost of producing goods. Those costs are built into the prices we pay. They also discourage investment that would otherwise increase factories, equipment, inventory, transportation capacity and employment. As the saying goes, "the more something is taxed, the less you get of it".

Under the FAIRtax, companies earn profits without federal income/payroll taxes and workers earn wages without federal income/payroll taxes. When the current tax code goes away, businesses will invest in new machinery, expand facilities, hire workers and bring production back to the U.S.. Investors will also have greater incentive to fund production because capital gains will no longer be reduced by federal income taxation. More investment means more output and more output means more products to buy. When shelves are stocked, supply chains are stronger and domestic producers can respond more quickly to demands and inflationary pressure is reduced.

By removing tax barriers to production, the FAIRtax would attack one of inflation's root causes: scarcity. If inflation is "too many dollars chasing too few goods", then a tax system that helps create more goods is a powerful anti-inflation reform.

For more information, go to FAIRTAX.ORG





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FROM THE DESK OF
Congresswoman Kat Cammack



Congresswoman Kat Cammack Issues Statement on the Censure of Rep. Chuck Edwards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03), Chair of the Republican Women's Caucus, released the following statement after the House voted 413-2 on Tuesday to censure Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC) following a bipartisan House Ethics Committee investigation into his conduct toward two staffers:

"Yesterday, I voted to censure Congressman Chuck Edwards.

I read the Ethics Committee's report, and I read his letter and his lawyers' response with the seriousness they deserve. He had every right to defend himself. It did not change my vote.

The Committee found a persistent pattern of unprofessional and inappropriate conduct toward two young women on his staff, and he did not deny much of the underlying conduct. In fact, defends it. He defends the gifts and the poetry, and he defends traveling with a young woman who had only just left his office. His argument is that none of it broke a rule, and that is precisely the problem.

I was a congressional staffer myself before becoming a Member. I understand the responsibility Members have to the people who work for us. Members of Congress hold enormous power over the people who work for us. 'Technically permitted' is a low bar. Judgment is the standard.

I co-founded the Republican Women's Caucus to raise the standard in this institution, and that starts with how we treat the people who serve alongside us. Two young women left his office, and the Committee said the House lost them because of his conduct.

Congress cannot ask the American people to trust this body if we refuse to hold ourselves accountable. Yesterday's vote was accountability after the fact. My work with Chairwoman Leger Fernández and the Democratic Women's Caucus is about making sure the next staffer never has to get that far. We will have more to share on that work soon."

Congresswoman Kat Cammack Secures $50 Million in Water Infrastructure Authorizations and Horseshoe Beach Storm Protection Study in House-Passed WRDA

Washington, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) secured $50 million in new and expanded federal water and wastewater infrastructure authorizations for Columbia, Suwannee, Marion, and Gilchrist Counties, along with a coastal storm risk study for Horseshoe Beach in Dixie County, in the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (H.R. 9497), which passed the House of Representatives today by a vote of 415 to 9.

The House-passed bill:

Authorizes up to $39.3 million for water and wastewater infrastructure in Columbia and Suwannee Counties.

More than doubles Marion County's existing authorization, from $10 million to $20.5 million, providing an additional $10.5 million in authorized capacity.

Authorizes up to $200,000 for water and wastewater infrastructure, including stormwater management, in Gilchrist County.

Directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study coastal storm risk management for the town of Horseshoe Beach, including shoreline damage prevention and mitigation.

"Our water and wastewater systems in North Central Florida carry the weight of decades of growth and back-to-back storms. Columbia, Suwannee, Marion, and Gilchrist Counties needed a federal partner. Securing these three priorities in the House-passed WRDA is an important step toward delivering the infrastructure these growing communities need," said Congresswoman Kat Cammack. "Horseshoe Beach took a direct hit from Idalia and Helene, and this study is the first step toward advancing long-term coastal storm protection for the community. I fought to get these provisions in the bill, and I will keep pushing to get these priorities across the finish line."

The infrastructure authorizations allow the Corps to partner with local governments on the design and construction of water supply, wastewater, and stormwater projects, with the federal government covering up to 75 percent of project costs. The Horseshoe Beach study is the required first step before a federal coastal protection project can be authorized for construction. Funding for the authorized projects would still need to be provided through the annual appropriations process.

WRDA 2026 also reauthorizes FEMA's High Hazard Potential Dam program, establishes a Corps office dedicated to technical assistance for rural communities, and reforms Corps project delivery to reduce delays and costs. Congress has enacted a WRDA every two years since 2014.

The bill now heads to the Senate, which advanced its own version through the Environment and Public Works Committee in July.

Clinical Trials
Small Cell Lung Cancer



For people diagnosed with small cell lung cancer, the clinical trial conversation belongs in the very first appointment.

A diagnosis of SCLC can trigger a whirlwind of appointments, tests, and decisions. But amid all that noise, there is one question patients should ask their doctor as early as possible:

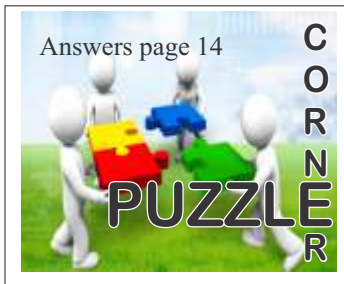
"Is there a clinical trial that might be right for me?"

Many patients may associate that question with running out of treatment options. But according to Dr. Ashish Saxena, Chief of Thoracic Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine, that's not always the case.

Some clinical trials are available only before treatment begins, while others are studying promising therapies as a first treatment. For someone facing a fast-moving cancer like SCLC, timing is everything.

"There are a lot of changes going on in the landscape today, more than we've seen for a very long time. Emerging treatments now involve immunotherapy, where your immune system attacks small cell lung cancer. Studies are also exploring antibody-drug conjugates, antibodies that target specific proteins in small cell cancer and deliver chemotherapy with them, rather than free-flowing chemotherapy in your bloodstream. And we're learning more about the biology of small cell lung cancer and how certain patients may react better to certain drugs. So, all of these things should give patients a lot of hope when they are diagnosed with small cell lung cancer,"

Continued page 17



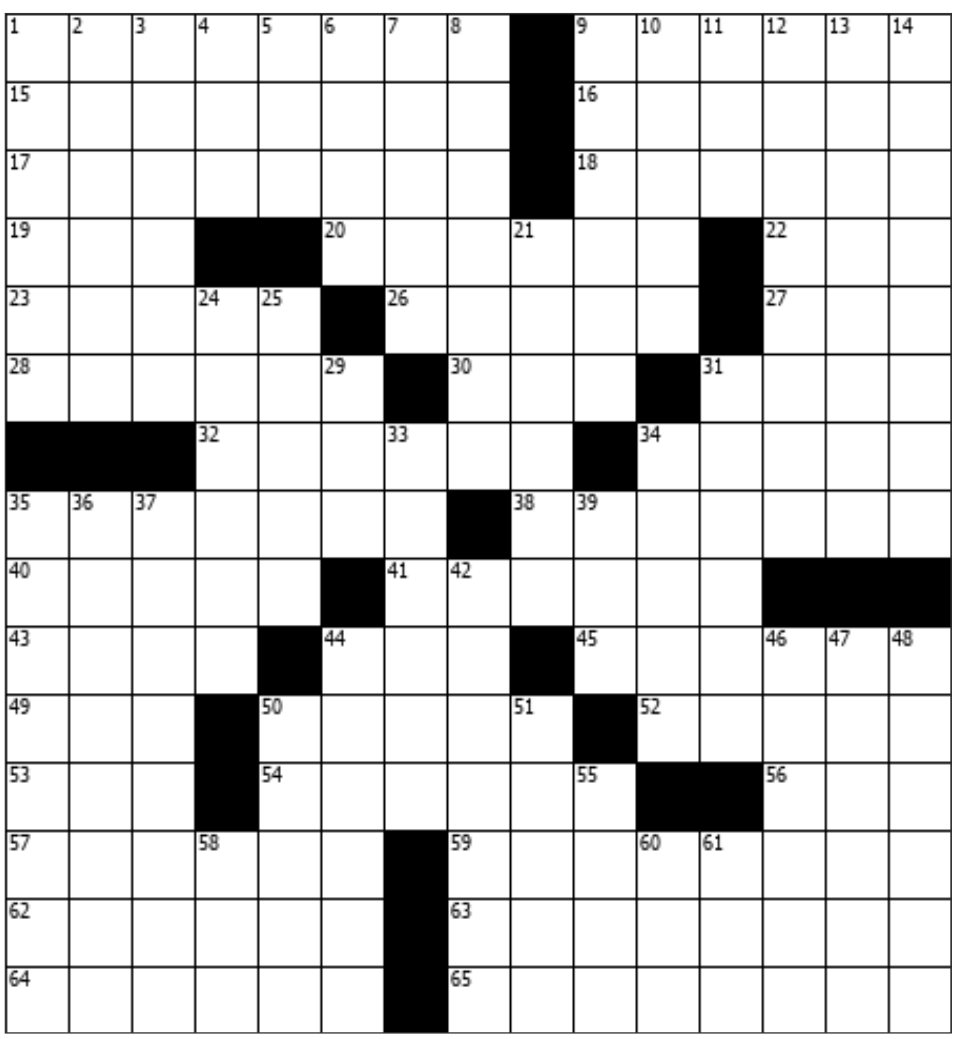
Answers page 14

Across

1. Vacationer's quest, perhaps
9. Face-up
15. Upgrades, in a way
16. In the future
17. Fluke
18. Pioneer in electrodynamics
19. Frat letter
20. Worn blanket
22. Trickery
23. Name that means "pretty"
26. Extend an occupation
27. Southest Asian language
28. Bladed tools
30. Explain further
31. Sonny's dad
32. Charge with gas
34. French composer
35. Take back
38. Vivify
40. Cherbourg shes
41. Volcanic rock
43. Abdicator of 1917
44. The Diamond St.
45. Baits
49. Peripheral ring
50. Pulitzer's New York paper
52. Start a hole
53. U2 producer
54. Dark red
56. Collected sayings
57. "Father of the TVA"
59. Trucker, often
62. Build
63. Weapon-maintenance specialists
64. Wasn't definite
65. Feedback

Down

1. Basic need
2. Lei flower
3. Shoestrings
4. Dictator's first name
5. HST opponent in '48
6. Exercises
7. Where Alice worked
8. Plead with
9. Worked a bar
10. Not satisfied
11. Zip
12. Exalt
13. Sets forth
14. Canine
21. Cold-climate trees
24. Game chooser, at times
25. Survey findings
29. Delhi address
31. Strong point
33. Fossil resins
34. Scale key
35. Economize
36. Hamlet's home
37. Made a lot of noise
39. Fill up
42. Top player
44. Wet thoroughly
46. Spruce up
47. Radio dials
48. In short supply
50. Keep in touch
51. Toro alternative
55. Woolen caps
58. With 60 Down, top-10 tune of 1950
60. See 58 Down
61. Sellout notice



FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE



Attorney General James Uthmeier Proposes the Florida Anti-Spam Communications Act to Stop Robocalls, Robotexts, and AI Voice Scams

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Attorney General James Uthmeier proposed legislation that gives the Attorney General independent authority to investigate and shut down spam calls and texts and gives prosecutors new tools against impersonation, fake warrants, undisclosed AI voices, and the phone farms that power those campaigns.

"Floridians should not have to fear every unknown call or text," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "What we are talking about is fraud—pure and simple. It just arrives as a phone call, a text, a fake warrant, or an AI voice. This proposal lets our office investigate and act independently, and it gives prosecutors the tools to put the worst offenders in prison."

Spam floods Florida phones. Scammers spoof government agencies, banks, and utilities. They send fake warrants and official-looking papers by text. Artificial voices make the fraud sound real. Under current law, some of these crimes don't carry tough penalties, and Florida law does not provide consequences for the phone farms and SIM farms that blast thousands of numbers from one room.

The Florida Anti-Spam Communications Act would:

1. Crack down on phone and text fraud, including AI voices and fake warrants.

Impersonating an official, spoofing a number, using an undisclosed AI voice to obtain money, or sending a fake warrant by text or e-mail is treated as communications fraud and simulated legal process. High-volume or high-loss cases would be an elevated felony and carry mandatory prison time. Possession or importation of a phone farm or SIM farm becomes a felony, and the equipment is designated contraband.

2. Cut off unlawful traffic.

Communications providers would be required to authenticate caller ID, answer traceback requests, and cut off a named unlawful campaign after written notice.

3. Strengthen consent and opt-outs.

Florida's telemarketing consent law is tightened, and a STOP request must be honored within days instead of weeks. Selling stolen lists used to target Florida numbers is its own civil violation.

4. Give the Attorney General independent authority.

The Department of Legal Affairs may investigate spam calls and texts on its own and seek injunctions, restitution, and civil penalties, including against those who sell or traffic in illegally obtained records.

5. Educate seniors before the next call lands.

The Department of Legal Affairs would run a statewide campaign so older Floridians know how to spot a fake warrant, a spoofed number, and an AI voice—and how to hang up and report it.

Floridians who receive a suspicious call or text should not send money. A real court does not text a warrant. Report it at 1-866-9NO-SCAM or MyFloridaLegal.com.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Takes Legal Action Against Amazon for Secret Ad Surcharge Scheme Driving Up Prices for Florida Families

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier joined the Federal Trade Commission and 21 other states in suing Amazon, alleging the company spent years secretly inflating the prices Florida businesses pay to advertise on its platform—costs that were then passed on to Florida families at checkout.

"Amazon told Florida businesses they were bidding in a fair auction. That was false," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Amazon hid a surcharge, padded its own profits, and those costs landed on Florida families buying groceries, medicine, and everyday essentials. Amazon should expect to be held accountable."

According to the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, Amazon represented for years that it ran "second-price" auctions in which the winning advertiser would pay only one cent more than the next-highest bidder. In practice, Amazon added an undisclosed surcharge and used an "invented auction participant" to drive prices higher than genuine competition would have produced. By 2024, Amazon charged Sponsored Products advertisers their own winning bid approximately 80 percent of the time, converting a nominally second-price auction into a first-price auction without telling customers.

The complaint alleges Amazon began testing hidden surcharges in 2019 and 2020. After concluding advertisers could not detect the extra charges, Amazon rolled them out across the platform and ramped them higher on Prime Day and Black Friday. Internal documents quoted in the complaint describe "a surcharge hidden in it" and a "clever non-transparent way to charge first price."

Those overcharges did not stop with the businesses that buy ads. The complaint alleges that a significant portion of the advertising costs paid by Amazon sellers "are ultimately passed through to and paid by Amazon shoppers in the form of higher prices," including on low-margin necessities families buy every day. Nationally, the scheme is alleged to have extracted more than $20 billion from approximately 1.2 million advertising customers, including more than 500,000 small- and medium-sized businesses. Sellers and vendors based in Florida have been overcharged by hundreds of millions of dollars over more than four years.

Amazon understood that disclosing the change would cause advertisers to lower their bids. The complaint alleges the company concealed the surcharges, gave false and misleading answers when advertisers asked whether the auction format had changed, and continued the practice after the FTC notified Amazon of its investigation.

The lawsuit alleges Amazon violated the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. Attorney General Uthmeier seeks a permanent injunction, consumer restitution, disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, civil penalties, attorney's fees, and other relief authorized by Florida law.

Florida is joined by the Federal Trade Commission and the attorneys general of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington.

This action reinforces Attorney General Uthmeier's commitment to enforcing Florida's consumer protection laws, stopping deceptive corporate schemes, and protecting Florida families from hidden charges that show up in the price of everyday goods.

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FROM THE DESK OF
GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Florida Announces the Start of Workforce Pell Grant Funding to Support Short-Term, Career-Focused Training

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced Florida's initial list of eligible short-term workforce programs for purposes of implementing the new federal Workforce Pell Grant program. This program is a Trump Administration priority and provides federal financial aid to students enrolled in short-term workforce training programs that lead directly to employment in high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations.

Aligned with state workforce demand, the Workforce Pell Grant supports students' continued education and career advancement while strengthening the state's workforce pipeline. Workforce Pell eligible programs must prepare students for occupations that demonstrate strong labor market demand or fulfill critical workforce needs within Florida's economy and communities.

"Florida is number one in workforce education, and the Workforce Pell Grant funding enables us to build on our track record of success," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "The programs eligible for Workforce Pell funding are preparing students for high-wage, in-demand careers. We're glad that thousands more Floridians will be able to take advantage of these opportunities without needing to take out loans or break the bank."

Governor Ron DeSantis has delegated Commissioner of Education Henry Mack to lead the statewide implementation of the Workforce Pell Grant. The Florida Department of Education is using the Targeted Occupations List managed by FloridaCommerce and the CareerSource Florida Master Credential List to determine eligible programs.

"By prioritizing short-term workforce training that allows students to earn a credential in as little as 8 weeks, the Workforce Pell Grant helps students earn the skills they need to enter the workforce with little to no debt," said Commissioner of Education Henry Mack. "The programs identified as eligible for Workforce Pell funding are within high-wage and in-demand industries, ensuring students will be able to find fulfilling careers after completing their programs."

Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida has been named the nation's number one state for workforce education, and the Workforce Pell Grant further showcases his commitment to workforce education, adding to the $12 billion already committed during his administration.

For more information about Florida's implementation of the Workforce Pell Grant and to view the inventory of eligible programs, visit www.fldoe.org/workforcepell.

For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org.

Governor Ron DeSantis Awards More Than $10 Million to More Than 1,500 New Law Enforcement Officers

Since 2022, nearly 12,500 new law enforcement officers across the state have received bonuses through the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, totaling more than $83 million.

LAND O'LAKES, Fla.— Today, Governor Ron DeSantis awarded more than $10 million in bonuses to 1,506 new law enforcement officers through the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program, including 38 new recruits in Pasco County. Since 2022, nearly 12,500 new law enforcement officers across the state have received bonuses through the program, totaling more than $83 million.

"In 2022, while some cities were reaping the disastrous results of "defund the police" experiments, I signed landmark legislation to strengthen law enforcement recruitment and retention in Florida," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "In the four years since, we have awarded nearly 12,500 bonuses totaling more than $83 million to our law enforcement officers. We have also made record-breaking investments in officer pay, benefits, training, and protections for the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect the people of our state. We continue to build on this foundation to keep Florida the most law enforcement-friendly state in the country."

"Governor DeSantis has made Florida the national model for supporting law enforcement and the nearly 12,500 recruitment bonuses awarded since 2022 are a testament to the success of that commitment," said Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly. "Through a comprehensive commitment to the men and women who protect our communities—including investments in pay increases, expanded education opportunities and wellness benefits—Florida remains committed to our sworn officers and their families."

The program provides a one-time $5,000 bonus—after taxes—to newly recruited and employed officers as a show of appreciation and incentive for choosing to serve Florida. The bonuses are part of a broader initiative to solidify Florida's position as the Nation's law-and-order state.

Under the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget, the Governor secured $19.8 million in pay increases for sworn state law enforcement officers, $20 million for the Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program, and $2.5 million in pay increases for state firefighters. In the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget, state law enforcement officers saw a raise in the minimum base pay to $60,000 and significant raises for both entry-level and veteran officers—10% and 15% increases, respectively. The state has also expanded wellness resources, enhanced penalties for crimes against officers, introduced law enforcement education programs in high schools, and launched the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to cover training costs for new recruits.

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

For more information about the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment, visit FloridaJobs.org/Recognition-and-Recruitment.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Second Annual Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday

LAKELAND, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced Florida's Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday is back for a second year, providing tax relief on firearms, ammunition and a wide range of hunting, fishing and camping supplies through December 31. The Governor also broke ground on the new Florida Archery Center at Tenoroc in Lakeland, expanding opportunities for Floridians to participate in shooting sports and enjoy the outdoors.

"Since I became governor, we have enacted billions of dollars in tax cuts. This year's hunting, fishing and camping sales tax holiday—ongoing through December 31—will provide Floridians with even more tax relief," said Governor DeSantis. "We are proud to protect Floridians' Second Amendment rights while helping hunters, anglers, and sportsmen keep more of their hard-earned money."

The Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday began September 1 and runs through December 31, 2026. During the holiday, Florida will suspend the collection of sales tax on eligible firearms, ammunition and hunting, fishing and camping equipment.

Eligible purchases include:

Ammunition;

Firearms, including pistols, rifles and shotguns;

Firearm accessories, including holsters, grips, sights, stocks and cleaning kits;

Bows, crossbows and related accessories;

Fishing rods, reels, bait and tackle; and

Eligible camping supplies, including tents, sleeping bags, camping stoves and lanterns.

Following the success of last year's inaugural holiday, Florida expanded tax relief for 2026. This year, the state doubled the eligible price thresholds for fishing bait and tackle to $10 for individual items and $20 for multiple items sold together. Florida also expanded tax relief for firearm accessories through a separate sales tax exemption that includes magazines, range bags, firearm barrels, triggers, slings, bipods and suppressors.

"Consumers can take advantage of the 2026 Hunting, Fishing, and Camping Sales Tax Holiday by purchasing qualifying supplies tax-free from September 1 through December 31," said Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Chief Conservation Officer George Warthen. "Thanks to Governor DeSantis and the Legislature, this is an opportunity to invest in equipment that helps connect people with Florida's great outdoors"

This year's holiday is expected to provide approximately $40 million in tax relief to Florida's hunters, anglers and sportsmen. Combined with the estimated $45 million in tax relief provided during the inaugural holiday in 2025, Floridians are projected to save nearly $85 million over the first two years of the program.

The Second Amendment Sales Tax Holiday builds on Governor DeSantis' record of protecting Second Amendment rights and expanding opportunities for Florida's sportsmen. Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida enacted Constitutional Carry and eliminated a provision in state law that allowed firearm restrictions to automatically take effect during declared local emergencies. Last year, Governor DeSantis also signed legislation streamlining Florida's concealed weapon licensing process and prohibiting the use of drones to harass individuals on state hunting lands or private shooting ranges.

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Small Cell Lung Cancer

Continued from page 13

says Dr. Saxena.

Why Clinical Trials Matter

For years, people with SCLC had few treatment options. Now, research is expanding what may be possible, from new treatment approaches to a better understanding of distinct types of SCLC that could lead to more personalized care.

For patients, that progress means something especially important: hope.

Living Better, Not Just Longer

The research happening in clinical trials isn't focused only on extending life. Researchers are also paying closer attention to how patients feel while they are living it.

Along with tracking whether a tumor shrinks or how long a treatment keeps cancer from growing, clinical trials increasingly look at how treatment affects everyday life, including fatigue, breathing problems, pain, and emotional well-being.

"The goal is to have meaningful time, not just more time," says Dr. Saxena.

These patient-reported outcomes can also provide clues about whether a treatment is working before the next scan. A cough may improve. Breathing may become easier. Energy may return.

Your Voice Is Part of Your Treatment

Patients can play another important role in their care: Speak up.

Reporting side effects and changes in how you feel can help doctors adjust medications or dosages and better manage symptoms, helping patients maintain their quality of life and potentially stay on treatment longer.

In clinical trials, that feedback also helps researchers understand how a therapy affects a person's daily life, not just what appears on a scan.

For Wendy Brooks, who is living with small cell lung cancer and is a member of the LCFA's Voices of Hope Speakers Bureau, the pace of change is encouraging.

"I'm more hopeful today than I have ever been," says Brooks.

For people facing SCLC, the message is simple: Don't wait to ask about clinical trials. Ask early. Ask before treatment begins. And keep asking as your treatment journey continues.

That one question: "Is there a clinical trial that might be right for me?" could open a door you didn't know was there.

Learn MoreTo hear the full conversation between Wendy Brooks and Dr. Ashish Saxena on the Hope With Answers podcast and learn more about small cell lung cancer research, clinical trials, and treatment, visit LCFAmerica.org.

About LCFALung Cancer Foundation of America (LCFA) is dedicated to dramatically improving survival rates and quality of life for people diagnosed with lung cancer. Through funding innovative research, amplifying patient stories, and raising awareness, LCFA brings hope to the millions impacted by the world's deadliest cancer. Learn more at LCFAmerica.org.

Article Link

https://about.newsusa.com/ask-about-clinical-trials-on-day-one

Red Cross

Rooted In Culture And Service: How One Red Cross Employee Went From Advocate To Patient

(NAPSI)—For Alexis González, regional communications manager for the American Red Cross, her job gives her the opportunity to serve and work alongside her community every day.

"My work wouldn't be possible without the support and trust of the people I serve, especially the Latino community," she says.

"I am the daughter of Mexican parents and was born in Los Angeles. I grew up in a Hispanic community, speaking both Spanish and English and experiencing firsthand what it means to be Latina in the United States. That's why it's important to me that people know we are here for everyone," Alexis says.

From Donor Advocate To Patient

Last year, Alexis, who spends much of her time raising awareness about the importance of blood donation and is herself a regular donor, faced a medical emergency that required an emergency blood transfusion.

"I was experiencing severe stomach pain. I couldn't even sit down and was curled up in a fetal position," Alexis recalls.

"My doctors told me I had three blood clots in the veins connected to my liver, severe anemia, and that I would need two units of blood.

I had never been hospitalized before. I felt overwhelmed and scared. That's when it hit me that every day, I encourage people to donate blood, and I donate every 56 days myself. But now I was experiencing it from the other side firsthand."

"Before receiving the blood, I felt awful. I was dizzy and extremely weak. After the transfusion, the color came back to my face, and I no longer felt that weak."

During her recovery, Alexis told her nurse that she worked for the Red Cross and asked if there was any way to find out where the blood had come from. Two remarkable connections emerged: the nurse's son was a Red Cross volunteer whom Alexis had met during a training session just two weeks earlier, and the blood she received had been supplied by the American Red Cross.

"I felt like everything had come full circle. I realized that the work I had done with the Red Cross had impacted me personally, and I can now say from experience that every donation truly reaches someone who needs it.two units of blood I received came from two people who took the time to donate, and those donations saved my life.

I know many people in the Latino community are hesitant to donate blood. But I can tell them that their blood is their superpower. By donating blood, they have the power to give life to someone else," Alexis says.

Back In The Donor Chair

A few weeks ago, fully recovered, Alexis returned to donate blood and reached an important milestone: her first gallon donated.

"I feel proud and honored to be able to help someone in need, because we need each other."



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