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Gerry Dietrich with Mobile Directory was speaker for Ocala Business Directory. Gerry has a unique product in that his app when loaded into your smart phone and activated will broadcast your ad when you get near different other smart phones. Gerry is constantly making improvement to his system. Many of the Ocala Business Leaders are using the App... Another way to get the word out!



Sandra Wilson, Interim City Manager for the City of Ocala, presented information on City Council's eleven strategic initiatives ranging from addressing the impacts of drug abuse and the homeless issue to being proactive on infrastructure, to name a few. She also shared how the City has used the penny sales tax to fund public safety needs and roadway improvements throughout the City.



Connie Ann Pendleton of Ocala Business Brokers is the outgoing President of the Ocala Business Leaders 2019. She is an accomplished business person in selling businesses to investors / entrepreneurs. She knows her way around the business world and is well liked. She brought humor and structure to the Ocala Business Leaders. Although she will still be part of the club her leadership will be missed. Following her is the new President, Patrick Dolder of Pals Ocala Auto Repair. You will hear more about him when the new year starts. In January, Patrick will be sworn in.



The Last Rainbow Springs Cowboy. What I believe was the last Rainbow Springs Cowboy, Dave Springer has passed away. He is survived by his wife Vicki Edmondson Springer. They were living in St Petersburg at the time of his passing. He was known for his story telling about the history of local cowboys & cowgirls that competed in the rodeos. He will be remembered as a local historian. He remembered names, dates, events, who won, everything you would want to know about different events.

I first met Dave 30 years ago when we hired him to break a horse for us. At the time he was working at the Rainbow Springs attraction Daily Rodeo. He rode twice a day and made \$10 per show. They would ride bucking horses and most of the time get thrown off because that's what the audience came to see. He camped out in Rainbow Springs most of the time. He had a dog with him.

Dave knew everyone and everyone knew him. Some liked him and some did not. But I remember the stories he told about the cowboys and cowgirls. I also remember the stories he told about the local cowboys and their competing to win the top rider.

I remember one day while working with the horse in the front yard my mother-in-law sprayed something with the water hose. The horse spooked and Dave almost lost control but he stayed on. When it was all over he rode the horse over next to my mother-in-law and said thanks. "Now that I have the horse right here to watch you do it, do it again". The horse only reacted a little. The next

Continued page page 4

IMPEACHMENT, IMPEACHMENT, IMPEACHMENT

By TomL

I'm almost happy it's over. I don't think justice was served. Half of the country feels that way and the other half feels the other way. Some are elated and the pro-Trumpers don't seem to be effected. They continue to go to rallies because they like what he has done and where he is going. The United States is on one of the biggest upswings that it has ever experienced. More jobs than ever before, less unemployment, lots of people off food stamps, stock market is continuing to be driven by the middle class because Trump has created enough jobs that people are working, people are spending and manufacturing is up.

I have to hand it to Speaker Pelosi. She is using the Impeachment results as a bargaining chip. It could backfire when people start going to jail because of the real high crime by our top criminal Justice people that started this whole investigation. It will be measured by the number of people that go to jail. I'm pretty sure there will be more than a dozen. But I see the top four people are talking about seven layers of people involved. I don't believe that.

The mainstream media is not doing the job that the reporters use to do. In fact a few reporters were manufacturing crisis or miss reporting on purpose. They have to create a headline to sell newspapers whether it is true or not.

Anyway we have some good people at the top that will straighten it out. Drain the swamp!

From Fox News online

To assist the Committee in its deliberations, we address six issues of potential relevance:

- (1) The law that governs House procedures for impeachment;
- (2) The law that governs the evaluation of evidence, including where the President's orders defy House subpoenas;
- (3) Whether the President can be impeached for abuse of his executive powers;
- (4) Whether the President's claims regarding his motives must be accepted at face value;
- (5) Whether the President is immune from impeachment if he attempts an impeachable offense but is caught before he completes it; and
- (6) Whether it is preferable to await the next election when a President has sought to corrupt that very same election.

Restaurant Reviews

By TomL & Friends / Ocala DownTown / Seniors Voice of Ocala

MOJO's SBA referral Club met at MOJO's next to Target on 200. We had a small celebration with three different appetizers on the table: fried pickles; fried green beans; something called a mess??? It had waffle fries, meat, chili, cheese... I don't know, it probably changes every day, but it was good. All of our members attending had different meals and were very pleased.

Gruff's Restaurant, Dunnellon Fl. Used to be the Dinner Bell Restaurant. It has stepped up in the world. I had dinner there the other night. Service was good, dinner was delicious, prices were moderate. A pleasant experience.

I ordered a salad at Subway in Heath Brooke Plaza. It was good but I would have

Continued page page 2

■ Kevin Sheilley ■

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

I am not sure how one could view 2019 as anything but an incredibly successful year for the Ocala Metro. The CEP is excited to review how our community continues to grow, diversify, and prosper.

Economic Growth

The local economy continues to demonstrate very strong fundamentals. As of the time of this writing, the local unemployment rate was a record seasonal low of 3.5%. But more importantly, the area recorded a Job Growth Rate of 3.1%. This number is not only strong but it is higher than the state average and nearly double the national average! The Ocala Metro is recording job growth while at the same time seeing wages report health gains.

Our newest major employer opened in February when McLane Company opened

their new 400,000 sq. ft. distribution facility at Ocala International Commerce Park. The company now employs more than 500 people at this facility. Red Rock Development began construction this summer on a new 620,000 sq. ft. spec building in the Ocala/Marion County Commerce Park along the interstate. This new facility is significant in a couple of ways: 1) it will result in a \$43 million investment in our community and 2) it represents a major investment in the growth of Ocala as a distribution hub. That a major developer like Red Rock was willing to make this investment on spec (or speculation meaning they do not have a tenant already lined up for the building) has further enhanced the community's reputation as a place to do business.

The industrial growth does not stop there. Cardinal LG completed and opened their new 400,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in the Meadowbrook Commerce Park. With their second local facility, the company now employs more than 650 people locally. Additionally, the company has located their LG division headquarters here and announced plans to open a LG Tech Center in Ocala. Fidelity Manufacturing opened a second facility in Ocala as well this year and now employs approximately 200 people.

I am hopeful that by the time this article goes to print, we will have announced or be in the process of announcing two more major additions to our community. These projects will result in a combined addition of more than 900 jobs and a capital investment in excess of \$320 million. Growing and diversifying our economy is a key objective and we are excited to continue to see this momentum.

But the growth is not restricted to industrial. One need only to come

downtown to notice the continuing growth and changes. The new Hilton Garden Inn is drawing closer to completion, multiple new restaurants have opened, the new Osceola Trak is finally open, and several residential projects will begin construction in the new year. As much as downtown has changed in the last three years, it is nothing compared to what is in store for the next three!

CEP

The CEP is very proud of the role we are able to play in each of these successes along with dozens of additional projects around the community. We have continued to see great growth across our organization especially with our efforts at engaging education providers and students (NEXTworks).

A truly amazing partnership is growing between Marion County Public Schools, Marion Technical College, the College of Central Florida, and the business community especially when it comes to skills. There is an ever-growing recognition nationally that we have neglected the importance and value of skills and the tide is turning. The partnership described above is not only an example of this turn but quickly becoming a state and national model for how it should be done. The seven Career Choice Academies, NEXTworking, CTE to post-secondary alignment, soft skills initiative, are just a few of the many efforts to work together. I would encourage everyone, even the most ardent critic, to watch this partnership. It is catalyst which will drive our community to long-term success.

There are so many important and impactful initiatives which I wish I could highlight; however, I am going to close with a recognition which is very meaningful. The CEP was again named one of three finalists for national Chamber of the Year. This is the second time in three years for the CEP to earn this recognition from our peers. It is much more than accolades for our staff and leadership; this recognition highlights for the nation the incredible partnerships and can-do attitude of our community.

Restaurants

Continued from page 1

been better off buying a sub and taking the bread off. It was a little pricey as a salad.

We took a party of 7 to Yamato's restaurant again. A little pricey; food was good; the entertainment was good; service was OK. Birthdays are free. My son was paying for five and had a little mix up with his bill but was quickly fixed after a couple of minutes.

Paige's Rootbeer Restaurant Citrus County: We enjoyed the burgers. I had a single with cheese and my friend had a double and they were delicious. A thin small burgers but cooked to perfection. We will definitely be back. We definitely recommend Paiges Rootbeer.

From a friend

A few weeks ago after a hard day of putting up Christmas decorations, we decided to order out for dinner. We ordered gyros from Manhattan Subs & Gyros, 1420 NW 10th Street, Ocala. They were great! They were large with lots of meat and were very tasty. The restaurant is small and is not the place for a romantic dinner, but their take-out is tops. We will order there again soon.

Ron Maiellaro.

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Friends,
Happy New Year! I hope that all of you had a safe and wonderful holiday season. My family enjoyed all the time we shared together and I was especially grateful for the

opportunity to spend some time in our mountain home in North Carolina that we don't get to visit nearly enough. 2020 is already shaping up to be an exciting year in the world of government and politics and the Presidential Election is sure to capture the majority of the news over the next year. More on that later.

As we say hello to 2020 and goodbye to 2019, let us take a look at a couple of highlights from this last year and for all that we have to be thankful.

During 2019, crime rates in Florida continue to decrease. We just had a chance to look at FDLE's Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which showed crime dropped 6.1 percent compared to the first half of 2018 with almost 17,100 fewer reported incidents. This can be attributed, firstly, to those men

and women in law enforcement who are doing an excellent job holding the blue line. Secondly, we can thank some fantastic leadership, chosen by you, in our county sheriff's departments across the state. In addition, our city police chiefs and state law enforcement directors are among the very best, anywhere in the world and we should be very proud of the work they do. Thirdly, because the people of this state have chosen solid, conservative leaders to send to Tallahassee that will protect the rights of individuals to take responsibility for themselves and others.

Thanks to great work done by Governor DeSantis and the Florida Senate, we are finally seeing some relief from the blue-green algae and red tide that affected the gulf coast for the past few years. The establishment of task force to look at new initiatives and technologies, along with a \$682.6 million investment in water protection, has been very successful in combating these issues. Red Tide is a naturally occurring bloom in the Gulf of Mexico, so we will never be completely rid of it, but we can continue to work on mitigating the impacts on wildlife and water quality.

Finally, I was very pleased to see that Florida was finally removed from the American Tort Reform Foundation's "Judicial Hellhole" list. Formally number #1 on this list, excessive tort cost in Florida caused an estimated 125,000 jobs lost and Florida residents lost nearly \$12 billion in personal revenue. Tort reform was a top priority of the Governor and the Florida Legislature for 2019. That call was answered quickly with the appointment of three new Supreme Court justices, who will be more deferential to legislative efforts to

stop lawsuit abuse and are committed to correct actions taken by the prior activist court. Following that lead, the Florida Legislature enacted other measures in 2019 that would remove incentives to file assignment of benefits litigation and discourage unnecessary bad faith actions.

Florida is on a great track for 2020, let us stay the course and avoid taking any hard left turns. As always, it is a honor to be your Senator, thank you for letting me serve you.

Onward & Upward,
Dennis Baxley

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VILLAGES

To The Editor

Time for lots of monitoring and heavy enforcement of speed limits on Chula Vista Avenue, the crosstown speedway.

Enforcement is especially important now that we have a special needs child living right at the middle of the central block. Surveillance and enforcement should be very heavy on school day mornings between 6:30 and 7:15 AM when the school bus stops to pick up this child. Pickup is a slow protracted process as the child is chair bound and must be lifted into the bus. Villages drivers are not patient and have been known to pass the bus when DO NOT PASS signals are flashing.

Tom, I disagree with having people listening in. One of the reasons boils down to the language barrier. A leader of any country has to be sure that discussions are not slanted (or taken out of context) after a phone call ends. Most foreign leaders do not speak perfect English. I have a hard time understanding Macron of France (and he speaks slowly). Boris Johnson of the UK sounds like a freight train racing down the track with that British accent. And Erdogan of Turkey is a whole nother animal.

As for running the country, Trump needs to stick to running the country and leave twitter to the adolescents in the world. He does not need twitter to legislate and should not use that medium to denigrate American citizens. Regardless of what one thinks of

the Obama years, he did not use twitter, even tho it was in its infancy in his early year or two in office. And Obama did just fine getting us out of the 2008 recession and on our road to recovery, leading to today's stock market.

Dan

To the Editor

A thought that's been nagging at me for some time. I've seen all the MAGA hats, tees, and other memorabilia, but I can never remember a time when America has not been the greatest country in the world. I defy anyone to dispute this fact by giving me a time as to when this might have occurred, but I doubt anyone can!

I want to address your comments about "kangaroo courts," because I think you might be referring to the investigation that's being conducted by Congress into the administrations alleged abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Congress has the constitutional duty to address these allegations when clear and undisputed proof that illegal activity has occurred. The kangaroo court will sit once Congress has voted on the impeachment process. McConnell has already determined that acquittal or dismissal of charges is a forgone conclusion by the Republican dominated senate trial.....and so this is not really a true trial at all, but a kangaroo court.

During Trump's administration, there have been several indictments of Russian nationals who have fled America to avoid

prosecution. Six of Trump's close friends or associates have been either convicted or pled guilty of crimes, and two of Giuliani and Trumps Russian associates have been charged as well. Giuliani is also being investigated by the FBI for his conduct in this matter.

The brave, courageous witnesses who did come forth to testify, all long-time public servants with stellar records of patriotic service, have been insulted berated and intimidated by Trump and his cronies, yet he has ordered his staff to refuse to comply with lawful requests to testify and has refused to turn over any documents requested by Congress in their legal inquiry. Why is this? obstruction of Congress?

Alas, so many comments, so little space.

One thing we do agree on. Many people are still incarcerated for offenses that are no longer crimes. Its time to free them.

Bob from The Villages

PUBLISHERS NOTE: Hi Bob In my opinion a Kangaroo Court is something that goes on regardless of what the findings are. If you are found innocent in the middle of the investigation they keep investigating... That is what has happened here. Kangaroo Court! I think you will find that we all have been bamboozled by the politicians. Some will go to jail and then we will know who did what!



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Avoiding Surprises at Tax Time

Older adults who have spent most of their careers benefiting from the services of a human resources department are often caught off guard by the tax requirements for self-employment.

Instead of the familiar W-2 from a single full-time job, self-employed adults may find themselves juggling multiple 1099s,

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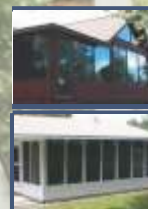


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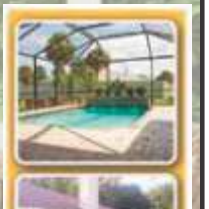
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Tom Loury
Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders, Co-Founder and President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber.

PUBLISHER’S NOTES



First I am not going to make any resolutions yet!!! The past year has been challenging with readers thinking that because a story or letter is in my paper, it's my belief. Remember my job is to bring you everyone's opinion. I am still struggling to get Automobile ads in my papers. I need one for Ocala papers and one for the Villages papers. One of the new and exciting things that happened was we won four Statewide awards, two I will mention. One was our Graphics Designer Christine Boody, who won first place best online Digital Graphics Design. I was lucky enough to win first place "Best Editorial," on subject "What is a Political Pac." We had another honor; at least I consider it an honor. The University of Florida has asked permission to put our Ocala paper in

their Digital Library. I am pleased for that opportunity. I am in the process of learning a little bit about the re-fi world and how hard it is to get a mortgage rate under 4%. When you do there is a lot of information you must supply. Rick Perry Some years ago Rick Perry was calling Trump names. He called him a barking dog, a cancer on conservatism, also the incarnation of the Know-Nothing movement. Buuuut in a Fox News Interview he called him "The Chosen One". Now that is a far cry from what he was saying just a few years back! Now I don't want you to get the wrong idea but I have said "I don't know anyone on this earth that could do what he has done!" He has stood against over whelming pressure, lies and exaggerations and use your imagination... it has happened. The Democrats have ruined people's reputations and just moved on like nothing happened. This has made me sick! I want to see people

who broke the law, Republican or Democrat, go to jail! On the local scene I have seen people break laws in the name of politics and just walk away. It's time to stop it! **JAIL TIME!**

LAKE COUNTY FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2019 -
RESOLUTION OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECLARING LAKE COUNTY A SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY.
WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of our nation; and
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WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court found in Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), that, "where rights secured by the Constitution are involved, there can be no rule making or legislation which would abrogate them;"
Pub Note: The resolution is too long to print it all but you get the idea. Good idea. When is Marion County going to do it???
ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE
We have had some good results with our readership questions. We set out to see what kind of purchases our readers were going to make in the next year. You would be surprised what the top ten were...

OCALA	THE VILLAGES
#1 - Dinning	Entertainment
#2 - Entertainment	Dining
#3 - Auto Maintenance	Auto Purchase
#4 - Veterinarian	Medical Supplies
#5 - Medical Supplies	Pharmacy
#6 - Appliances	Health Club
#7 - Attorney	Veterinarian

We are still tabulating all of the results. We have given out over three hundred dollars in prizes to get the results. all restaurant coupons from several different restaurants: Texas Road House, Honey Bake Ham, Terry's restaurant and more.

While I'm at it I need your participation...Email me a short discription about a good experience at a restaurant for our reviews. What you had as a main course, side dish, how was the food and how was the service.
tloury@att.net

Dave Springer
Continued from page 1

week when he was working the horse, the horse reacted badly. Dave rode by me and said "I'll see you at sun down". He rode the horse for hours, wore him out and then he started listening. Then he rode back into the yard. The horse was dragging but was listening. I think the horse was better good after that. Dave was always good at remembering names and dates of riders competing in the Ocala rodeos. We lost a real historian that lived in Dunnellon in the 1980s while Rainbow Springs was still a top notch daily attraction, with animals, activities, glass bottom boats, rodeos every day and sometimes two shows a day. One of our historians is gone. May he rest in peace. Rainbow Springs changed hands several times and finally the state of Florida bought it to persevere and protect a piece of the natural springs. There were developers trying to develop it for private use. Right now you go in and walk around the springs with the trees and natural native plants and flowers for a couple of dollars for the day. The springs itself is a large pool of multiple, gorgeous blue waters, abundant with fish. You can see clear to the bottom. Pick a good day and visit Rainbow Springs.



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Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, January 15th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, January 22nd

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown

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P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher
Tom Loury
352-804-1223
Fax: 352-489-7208
tloury@att.net

General Manager
Wendy Netherclift
Ocala Office 352-895-4168

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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS

Florida Talent Development Council

On December 20, 2019, in News

Releases, by Staff

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the Florida Talent Development Council has submitted their strategic plan to improve education and training attainment by Floridians and to align the programs and credentials offered in Florida with the needs of employers.

“I would like to thank Mr. Schleicher and the members of the Florida Talent Development Council for their service and commitment to the development of Florida's workforce,” said **Governor DeSantis**. “Ensuring that Floridians are prepared for the jobs in the 21st century is critical to the future success of our great state.”

The 16-member council, composed of legislative, business, workforce development and postsecondary education leaders, was tasked to develop a coordinated, data-driven, statewide approach to meeting Florida's needs for a 21st century workforce that employers and educators use as part of Florida's talent supply system.

“The Florida Talent Development Council thanks Governor DeSantis and the Legislature for their foresight in creating the FTDC and entrusting us with the enormous opportunity to impact the future lives of all students and working Floridians — a role we do not take lightly!” said **Joel A. Schleicher, Chairman**. “Toward that end I applaud all FTDC Members and work groups for their candid and reflective discussions, input and

strategic plan recommendations put forth. In 2020 and beyond, we will seek constructive ways to bring together students, employees, employers, K-12 and postsecondary educational institutions, along with government to match Florida's diverse and growing employment base with changing educational and training needs.”

The Council began meeting in October 2019 to develop the framework to align programs and credentials with the needs of employers, while identifying ways to increase education and training attainment throughout the state. Five strategic priorities were identified to begin the framework for the strategic plan, including Policy and System Alignment, Workforce Readiness, Cross-Sector Collaboration and Engagement, Data and Accountability and Equity and Access.

Council members, stakeholders and partner organizations met in workgroups to discuss each strategic priority. Each workgroup drafted goals and strategy recommendations that were submitted to and discussed by the entire Council. The Florida Talent Development Council's Strategic Plan is the culmination of the hard work of Florida's education, workforce and industry sectors.

The Council, administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, will continue to meet in 2020 to implement the strategies identified in the strategic plan and to make progress towards the Strengthening Alignment between Industry and Learning (SAIL) initiative. SAIL to 60 strives to have

60 percent of working-age adults (ages 25-64) in Florida with a high-value postsecondary certificate degree, credential or training experience by 2030.

“It is exciting to see education, business and workforce development professionals from across the state come together to create a proactive strategy for the development of Florida's future workforce,” said **Ken Lawson, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**. “I am grateful that Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature had the forethought to bring us together and I look forward to implementing the strategies outlined in our plan.”

For more information and to view the strategic plan, visit

FloridaJobs.org/TalentDevelopmentCounc.

Florida Reemployment Tax Rate Continues to Remain at the Lowest Possible Rate

On December 20, 2019, in News Releases, by Staff

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced more than 63 percent of Florida businesses will continue to pay the lowest possible rate for reemployment taxes in 2020. This is the fifth consecutive year employers have benefited from the low rate of 0.1 percent. Florida's job growth rate continues to outpace the national average which has allowed the state to maintain the minimum reemployment tax rate for businesses. In 2012, employers paid more than \$2.2 billion in taxes. Last year, businesses paid less than \$514.2 million.

“The state of Florida remains competitive with other states because our businesses and communities are thriving,” said **Governor**

DeSantis. “We remain committed to maintaining Florida's business-friendly environment by lowering taxes, developing our workforce and making investments in education, infrastructure and the environment.”

“Governor DeSantis knows that creating a business-friendly environment is the key to supporting Florida's booming economy,” said **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Ken Lawson**. “Maintaining a low-tax climate and investing in Florida's infrastructure and workforce adds tremendous value to the state and continues to make Florida more marketable to businesses throughout the nation.”

“Last year Florida was awarded the United States Department of Labor Unemployment Insurance State Performance Excellence Award for Tax Operations overall for a large state,” said **Florida Department of Revenue Executive Director Jim Zingale**. “I'm proud of our employees for receiving this recognition.”

In addition, Zingale noted that the United States Department of Labor determined that Florida imposed the lowest average employer tax amount in the country the year of the award.

Employers only pay a percentage on the first \$7,000 of wages paid to each employee. Employers with stable employment receive the lowest rate. Reemployment taxes, or payroll taxes, fund Florida's Reemployment Assistance Trust Fund. As of June 30, 2019, this fund currently had a balance of more than \$4 billion.



Answers page 11

Across

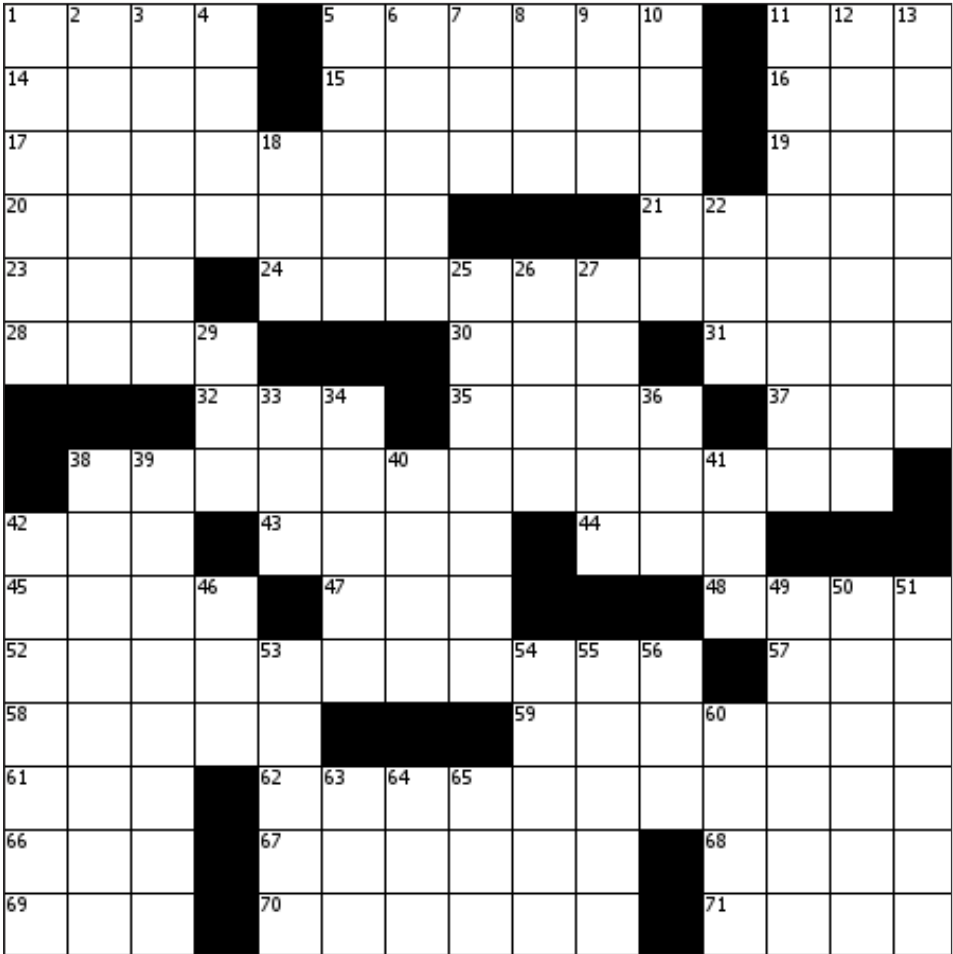
1. Deep cut
5. Users' shortcuts
11. Severe skirmish
14. First Scandinavian Olympic venue
15. Draw out
16. Go in haste
17. Forgo telling a story?
19. Treasury Dept. Division
20. The tiniest bit
21. "À ____ santé!" (French toast)
23. Part of UCLA
24. Rouse a dabbling duck?
28. "Exodus" director Preminger
30. Siren West
31. Exert exhausting effort
32. Talking-____ (scoldings)
35. Tony candidate
37. Clio candidates
38. Be a lookout man in a robbery?
42. What a weightlifter shows off, for short
43. German coal-producing region
44. Failure of a firecracker

57. Meal morsel
58. Producer of the Hula Hoop and Hacky Sack
59. Try to find in a store
61. Osaka sash
62. Successfully wooed a hospital worker?
66. Reel's partner
67. Single-file
68. First Lady before Mamie
69. Become brunette, maybe
70. Way of being thrilled or torn
71. Visualizes

Down

1. Leave the band to perform alone
2. Start of a classic Kennedy quote
3. Superlatively surreptitious
4. Pueblo Indian
5. Conductor Zubin
6. Spring ____ (require patching, perhaps)
7. Op. or loc. Follower
8. JVC competitor

45. Affirmatives at sea
47. ____-Pitch softball
48. October 31st ammo
52. Do some rationing in an Asian soup kitchen?
9. Bathwater additive
10. Canyon of comics
11. State tree of Connecticut and Maryland
12. Bomb-dropping attacks
13. Offers on eBay, say
18. AAA offering
22. Mel of the diamond
25. Hans Christian Andersen's naked marcher
26. Body powder
27. Got wind of
29. Like many cold medicines (abbr.)
33. Rubber-stamps
34. Secret supply
36. "____ wish!"
38. "Yeesh!"
39. South Australia's capital
40. Fit as a fiddle
41. Keats composition
42. It may be bleeped out
46. Religious sch.
49. Be released from jail
50. "____ Pointe Blank" (John Cusack film)
51. Place emphasis on
53. Namely
54. Strike while the iron ____
55. Munches on
56. Ages and ages
60. Alehouses
63. She survived Lennon
64. Slap cuffs on
65. Centennial lead-in



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FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody Applauds Congress for Passage of TRACED Act

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody thanks Congress for passing the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act. The TRACED Act, passed by the U.S. Senate Thursday, is designed to reduce the number of illegal robocalls and stop spoofing—the practice of using technology to disguise a caller's phone number. The Act will now go to President Donald J. Trump for his signature.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Passing this Act is vital step in our fight to stop illegal robocalls and the scams that often accompany them nationwide. We must stop the inundation of robocalls that has

been the norm for far too long. This legislation will also give us better tools for going against the practice of spoofing so we can better protect consumers.”

Attorney General Moody urged Congress earlier this year to pass the legislation because the TRACED Act enables states, federal regulators and telecom providers to each take steps in the effort to combat illegal robocalls. The legislation requires voice service providers to participate in a call authentication framework to help block unwanted calls. In addition, the Act creates an interagency working group that can take additional actions to reduce robocalls and hold telemarketers and robocalls accountable.

In March, Attorney General Moody joined a multistate bipartisan group of 54 attorneys general in sending a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation in support of the bill.

More than 48 billion robocalls were made in 2018. Robocalls remain the number one source of consumer complaints to the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal

Communications Commission, resulting in millions in consumer losses every year.

Despite Language Stating Otherwise, Proposed Ballot Initiative Will Not Make Conduct Legal

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today filed a petition regarding the Adult Use of Marijuana initiative. The initiative's ballot summary claims it will permit adults to possess, use and buy marijuana. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Using and possessing the drug is and will still be a crime under federal law. Federal penalties for possessing the Schedule 1 Controlled Substance are and will remain significant.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Facts matter. Before Florida voters are asked to make critical changes to our state constitution, those facts should be made clear. That's why, by law, any citizen initiative seeking to amend the state constitution must offer voters a summary explaining the legal effect of that amendment—painting a full picture of the important choice voters are asked to make. This initiative suggests to voters that their vote will allow for conduct that will remain illegal with significant penalties.”

Previous proposed ballot initiatives to

change Florida's marijuana laws warned voters that the amendment applied “only to Florida law” and would not “immunize violations of federal law.” This initiative's ballot summary simply does not do that. Unlike those prior initiatives, this initiative completely omits the illegality of this conduct under federal law. Given this oversight, the Attorney General's Office must oppose placement of this new proposed amendment on the ballot.

Under Florida Statutes § 16.061, the Attorney General is required to file a petition with the Florida Supreme Court seeking an advisory opinion once an initiative is certified by the Secretary of State as crossing a threshold of signatures. Article XI, §3 of the Florida Constitution and Section 101.161 of the Florida Statutes impose requirements on the titles and summaries of initiatives, so that Florida's citizens will know what they are voting on and not be misled.

In accordance with state law and Florida's Constitution, Attorney General Moody is also challenging several additional misleading initiatives. The Attorney General's Office has not challenged the minimum wage initiative—a proposed one-sentence change to the State Constitution.

Continued page 10

Attorney General

Continued from page 9

Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse Meeting Focuses on Recovery



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chair of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse, today in Miami convened the group's third

meeting. The meeting, held at Miami Dade College, focused on the recovery process and innovative programs to promote and sustain long term recovery for Floridians struggling with Opioid Use Disorder.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Today we heard from medical professionals, recovery specialists and a woman who struggled for years to overcome a powerful drug addiction, about how we can better serve those struggling with Opioid Use Disorder. By focusing on recovery and innovating the ways we help those struggling with addiction, we can change lives, heal families and reduce the death and destruction caused by the national opioid crisis in Florida.”

The recovery-themed meeting highlighted barriers to recovery, support systems for patients, Medication Assisted

Treatment and effective peer recovery strategies. Task Force members heard from Jacksonville Fire Chief Mark Rowely about an innovative program reducing repeat opioid overdoses in Duval County. Project Save Lives, a partnership between Jacksonville Fire and Rescue and local hospitals, has proven successful in reducing successive trips to the emergency room for survivors of opioid overdoses. More than 70 percent of patients treated at a partnering hospital have enrolled in the program that provides additional engagement and follow-up treatment.

The Task Force members also received an update from the Treatment and Recovery Subcommittee, heard from Florida Blue Insurance about the company's addiction prevention program and listened to a presentation from an individual thriving in

long-term recovery during the meeting live-streamed on The Florida Channel.

The Task Force is charged with developing a statewide strategy to identify best practices to combat the opioid epidemic through education, law enforcement efforts, treatment, prevention and recovery. The Task Force will then present its findings to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Bill Galvano and House Speaker Jose Oliva.

Governor DeSantis issued an executive order earlier this year creating the Task Force and naming Attorney General Moody chair.

Attorney General Moody launched a new statewide resource ahead of the first meeting of the Task Force to help Floridians join in the fight to end the opioid crisis. DoseofRealityFL.com is a one-stop shop of information about opioid addiction and resources for businesses, caregivers, educators, medical professionals, parents, seniors, service members, students, veterans and others.

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Tax Help for Self-Employed

Continued from page 4

wrestling with the time-consuming work of tracking expenses learning how to plan, save and submit quarterly tax payments.

If you work for yourself, you may need a resource that can help you handle multiple self-employment tax requirements. AARP Foundation Self-Saver is an online tax-tracking resource that allows you to connect your bank account and automate your self-employment tax withholding and payments.

As user Connie Johnson explained, “I’m an AARP member and I just happened onto Self-Saver. I felt like a miracle had happened. I had no idea I had to pay self-employment tax because as a contractor you’re considered self-employed, so that was a little bit of a shock. I feel peace of mind knowing that has been taken care of.”

AARP Foundation Self-Saver

Self-Saver saves you time and money with a set of tools that make tax time simpler, automated and less of a surprise.

By syncing to your bank account, Self-Saver informs you automatically about self-employment income received and expenses paid. The program provides an estimated tax rate based on factors that adjust as your income and other statuses change.

Self-Saver also gives you the option to automate your tax withholding, storing the right amount in an FDIC-insured bank. At the end of the quarter, Self-Saver submits your quarterly tax payments to the IRS automatically.

Learn More

For additional self-employment education or to sign up for a FREE account, go to Self-Saver.org. Sign up before 04/15/2020 and Self-Saver will always be free!



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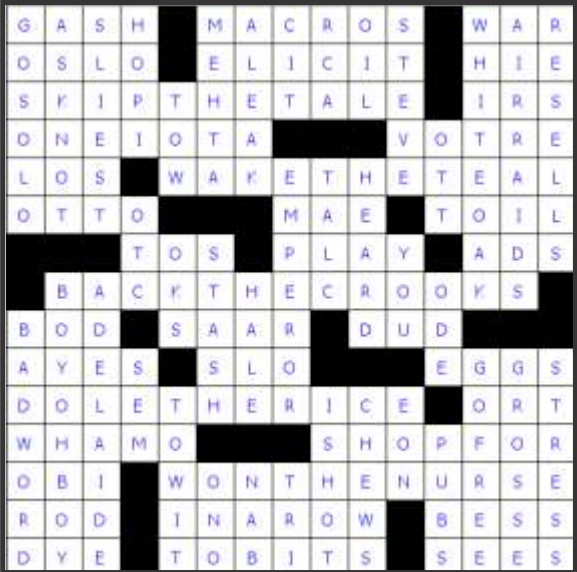
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