

# ocala Downtown

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Volume 11 Issue 4

April 2020



Let me tell you about my Habitat Ocala 2020 Strawberry Festival experience. First the support team was awesome. There were students from Marion County schools that helped with everything. There were two volunteers who saw my wife and I struggling with our pop up tent so they walk right over and pitched in. I was walking to registration a guy in a golf cart said get in. I must have looked really beat. I was!

The Vendor area was well mark and well

thought out. I was pleased to see the preparation that went into this festival. My contact person was Joann Black. Thank you Joann and Habitat of Ocala for putting this on.

They were selling Strawberry short cake. I heard one lady that they served 4,000 short cakes. Actually I think they sold out of food between 3 and 4 pm. Truckloads of strawberry flats sold out.

Some 34,000 people attended. There was not a shortage of people. They would

stroll by our booth, asking questions or say yes I read that paper. A couple asked my view of our up and coming race and of course I responded.

Many thanks to my wife Phyllis and Karen Nicely of "Writing Nicely" for helping me get through the day. Karen is a copy editor she will edit your book and give helpful hints if you want it. A very talented lady.

## COVID-19

**COVID-19 overview, symptoms, and general prevention**

COVID-19 is a new type of coronavirus; coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Other coronaviruses include the common cold and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). COVID-19 is believed to have emerged from an animal source and is now capable of spreading from person-to-person. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

The symptoms of COVID-19 can mirror illnesses such as influenza. Patients with COVID-19 typically display symptoms such as fever (100.4°F or higher), cough, and/or shortness of breath within 2 to 14 days of exposure to the virus. Approximately 80% of those affected with COVID-19 report mild to moderate illness and experience a complete recovery. Some experience more severe illness. People who are more vulnerable to the illness include individuals who are over age 65 with underlying health conditions, immunocompromised, ill or have underlying chronic health conditions, such as heart disease or diabetes.

Personal prevention measures are fundamental in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. The department recommends that individuals:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.

- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Cracker Days is put on by the Friends of Rainbow Springs the volunteer group for Rainbow Springs

State Park. Once a year the event shows Life in Florida in the 1800s. They set up a settlement in the back

of the park and shuttle people back and forth. It is a great experience for the whole family.



## Kevin Sheilley OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The purpose of the CEP is to be the One-Stop Shop and Voice of the Business Community. We are the designated economic development organization for all of the Ocala Metro. While many focus on our Business Attraction successes (bringing in new major employers like McLane, Dollar Tree, and FedEx) or our Business Services programs (such as Business After Hours, Tuesday Talks, and Leadership Ocala Marion), it is our Business Retention and Business Creation efforts that really have the ability to impact the business community. This is especially true as we go through a difficult crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Business Retention efforts are focused on assisting existing businesses throughout the community with a particular focus on primary employers (manufacturing, distribution, and large office). We work with approximately 200 businesses every year REGARDLESS of their partnership with the CEP. In other words, a business does not have to be a CEP partner to receive assistance. Much of this work is focused on removing barriers to their growth. Sometimes this means connecting them existing resources on the local, state, and federal level. Other times it means we are connecting them with other businesses to the benefit of both.

Business Creation coordinates all of the

CEP's entrepreneurship efforts. Assisting would be entrepreneurs and small business owners is an important part of both the CEP's mission and the growth of our community. While these efforts are most often associated with the Power Plant Business Incubator, the Business Creation team works with more than 150 entrepreneurs a year the majority of which will never by incubator residents.

As we go through the pandemic, the CEP is coordinating efforts for the business community. A centralized page of resources and information is frequently updated on our website (<https://ocalacep.com/covid-19-updates/>) and we are scheduling webinars and Facebook Live sessions to provide businesses with important tools to help them through this crisis. We will be using our video capabilities to provide tutorials on many programs and to guide businesses through new resources. Additionally, the CEP staff on these teams are a resource to help small and medium

size businesses plan their strategies on moving forward.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight that continued positive economic activity is still occurring. We are optimistic that a major new employer announcement is moving forward in the near future, and one of our local companies is accelerating plans for a significant expansion. Work continues on the new massive Dollar Tree distribution center and work on several smaller projects continues to progress.

## Restaurant Reviews

Received a Restaurant Review about Eaton's Beach in Weirsdale. Janet says she had Eaton's Beach salmon. The salmon had a glaze that made the dish, the salad, red wine vinaigrette, crisp lettuce tossed with corn, Applewood bacon, tomato, blue cheese crumbles, heart of palm, cucumbers, and egg. The service was friendly and very efficient. The price was \$16.99 and I feel was well worth it. The writer says she has several food allergies and the server was more than gracious to have the kitchen meet her needs. Janet says I always feel they take care of the needs of those who have food issues.

\*\*\*\*\*

Took my wife to dinner for her birthday. She choose Horse and Hound. It was packed house, long wait to get seated but it was worth it. Monday night 2 for \$25 Prime Rib was super great, fixed just the way I ask. My son's and their wives attended. Really good experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mojo's next to Target. Lunch continues to be a good experience. I really like their fries, green beans / chili / hound dog (large beef hot dog wrapped in bacon served on a bun). Actually I eat there every week and have not had a bad experience. Everything is good, service is outstanding.

\*\*\*\*\*

Outback Restaurant Lady Lake Fl on 441. Went to a Lady Lake Chamber luncheon called "Nothing But Networking" It is a monthly event held at local restaurants. We ordered off the menu the food was well prepared, service was good, My meal was served just the way I order it. I like my coffee hot and it was. The lunch was served with their special bread. It was a perfect experience.

Looking forward to going back next month.

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Florida State Senate

## DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,  
As this column is being prepared, we are a few weeks in to the COVID-19 scare that has taken up much of our focus in the U.S. and most parts of the world. In Senate District 12, we have been very fortunate thus far, with only one reported virus case in the tri-county area of Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. So far, just over 200 cases have been reported statewide but that number is expected to be bit higher by the time this column reaches you. The response by our Governor and emergency management directors has been exceptional. In a state of 22 million people, that number could be much higher had it not been for their great leadership and quick response.

As we continue to monitor the situation, my message today is simple. Use caution. Not panic, fear or anxiousness but ordered

and intentional caution. CDC guidelines for avoiding getting sick aren't much different than those that are given for the common flu and that's important to remember. Enduring these necessary precautions should help the risk to recede in the coming weeks. We should remain thankful, patient and resolved.

The greater threat will be the aftermath. The economic fallout from this could be very difficult and challenging, especially for those in industries that have been shut down. If the economic collapse of 2007-2008 has taught us anything, however, it is that we can bounce back and restore prosperity. I believe in the American spirit that says we can do anything if we are just given the freedom to do so. I do not believe that a panicked, over-response by government trying to bail everyone out is the answer. Yes, there will be those who truly need a hand up (not a handout) and we should provide an opportunity for them to become self-sufficient again. This will be a time for patience and faith in a free market system

that has sustained us for generations.

Help your family, help your neighbor, use caution and remember that greatest tool we have to combat this is using good judgement and common sense. The Senate office will remain accessible and open to you, please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance to you.

Onward & Upward,  
Senator Dennis Baxley.

## Price Gouging Hotline

### Attorney General Moody Activates Price Gouging Hotline

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Following Executive Order 20-52, Attorney General Ashley Moody today activated Florida's Price Gouging Hotline for all consumers in the state. The opening of the hotline comes as Governor Ron DeSantis declares a state of emergency in response to positive test results of 20 coronavirus-infected patients in Florida. The Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline can only be activated following a state of emergency declaration issued by the Governor and covers essential

commodities outlined in Florida Statute, Section 501.160.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said,

"We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation in Florida very closely and following the Governor's state of emergency declaration, our price gouging laws are now in effect. I have a rapid response team ready to immediately respond to allegations of price gouging and our Consumer Protection Division continues to look for scams by fraudsters who would use this situation to rip-off Floridians."

"Be on the lookout for scams and guard against gouging, but remember, the best thing you can do right now is heed the advice of health experts—wash hands regularly and stay home if you are ill."

For a list of the commodities covered under the state's price gouging laws during the COVID-19 state of emergency, click [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

For more information about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage by clicking [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

For the latest about COVID-19 in Florida, visit the Department of Health's webpage linked [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

Violators of the price gouging statute are subject to civil penalties of \$1,000 per violation and up to a total of \$25,000 for multiple violations committed in a single 24-hour period. For more information on price gouging, please click [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

Price gouging can be reported by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or by visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

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Join us at the Ocala Downtown Market (ODM) to purchase a diverse array of products from farmers, artisans, craftspeople, food trucks! A true destination location, ODM is set just blocks off the Ocala Downtown square, in a beautiful open-air Market Pavilion. Besides permanent roof cover the facility it also has large overhead fans, restrooms, a nearby ATM, and water fountains. The Market Pavilion is also available for rental.

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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



My assignment in life is to see your own individual expression is on paper. Your opinion is important!

The marketing manager at a regional banking chain explained it this way: "I won't advertise in a

daily newspaper where readers only look for last night's scores and skim the headlines," she said. "But I regularly buy ads in weekly or monthly papers that are read page by page and remain in the house a week or longer."

Community newspapers are still the most effective way for readers to reach a broad market. They also create consensus, cooperation and "hometown" pride. But community papers will have to change if they want to remain viable.

Marketing with the virus and customers in mind... Texas Roadhouse and Hardees have both sent me emails talking about how they

are cleaning and sanitizing everything.

The question was asked, why did the secretary of state Pompeo choose Bushnell to hold a meeting??? Of course it's next to the Villages. He could make a un-announced visit to the Villages. Some of the news media is calling it a secret meeting! I think the only reason to keep it secret is security or fund raising. The Villages is known for being one of the largest supporters of campaign finance. \$450,000 to Jeb Bush and \$200,000 to George. The same year! I personally think the Villages is mostly pro-republican.

With what Sanders recently said about how all dictators like Castro were not bad. He probably lost South Florida. When Castro took over the country the first thing he did was test the people left for literacy. He shot a lot of educated people.

I went to Cuba as a teenager the last year Batista ruled. The Cuban people were a happy people from what I saw. Most were poor but that's what happens in Socialism. Free health care for all. If you wait in line

and lived thru the waiting list...

If you notice when the Bern speaks about Socialism he calls it Democratic Socialism. There is no such thing. The word Socialism stand alone. He quotes extreme Socialism in other countries. You can't compare America to other countries. Their poor are hungry every day, our poor eats every day if they will work for it. In other countries you work or you die!!! We live in a society where people use their \$800 phone to check their food stamp balance.

\*\*\*\*\*

Have you ever listened to someone for a while and wonder??? "Who ties their shoes for them???"

Well I do almost every day!

\*\*\*\*\*

God Bless America

Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you:

1. Jesus Christ
2. The American G. I.

One died for your soul, the other for your freedom. Make sure you protect both!

I have been ask what do I think people opinion, how do we stay safe from the coronavirus. I'm not a doctor but first I think the younger to middle age citizens are pretty much safe. It's the elderly I would say should be more cautious. For the next few months they need to avoid large crowds and seems to be spreading by people traveling so I would say double up on the sanitation when traveling or being around travelers. The Airports seem to be a common denominator! I'm not a doctor but there seems to be a pattern.

I still don't see why people are buying up all the toilet paper and paper towels??? JOKE: Saw an ad "I have two cases of toilet paper will trade for Condo on the beach." I have canceled all meetings for March

\*\*\*\*\*

Florida recently partnered with private laboratories around the state to expand COVID-19 laboratory testing capacity. This partnership will increase the number of tests conducted each day and ensure Floridians receive the critical health information they need in a timely manner.

Expansion to private laboratories changes the COVID-19 testing landscape in Florida. Private laboratories will run tests as they receive swab samples from practitioners. Testing and reporting times will vary among commercial and DOH laboratories. Demographic information may be updated during investigations. These twice daily reports reflect the state's efforts to accurately and transparently share information.

\*\*\*\*\*

I received an open letter to all Christian Schools from Robert Dreyfus. Robert is an interesting fellow. We met for coffee one day and we wound up having lunch at McDonalds Ocala a few months back. I only had a few minutes and we went into overtime. He has an interesting effect on people. After sitting there talking and eating, the lady who waited on us came from behind the counter and said to Robert "I liked your message, thank you!". He had given her a religious message. She came and thanked him. He has some interesting credentials. He was on the founding board of Redeemer Christian School, and for many years has been the Florida State representative for the ministry, Exodus Mandate [www.ExodusMandate.org](http://www.ExodusMandate.org) whose goal is to see that children receive a biblically grounded education. I meet a lot of interesting people. Robert Dreyfus reminds me of the story of Jonny Apple seed, going around the country planting seeds knowing some will grow. Roberts's goal is to get all children out of public schools and put them in Christian Schools.

PUBLISHERS NOTE: I think I understand what he is saying and doing. Christians are not getting a fair shake in the public schools. The politically correct crowd has gotten the prayer and the pledge taken out of schools. When a student finishes the 12th grade, they should have a full understanding of religion so they can make their choice of religion. Also they should understand how our government functions, what different government bodies there are and understand their function. Just Saying! What is your opinion? [tloury@att.net](mailto:tloury@att.net)

## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for May*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**12am, April 15th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, April 22nd**

## Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Answer to A Letter to editor...

I have decided to answer this letter to me because of the length of the hand written letter.

Dear Mr Simons

Thank you for your letter. You say your 88 years old and are 100% American and very opinionated, conservative and are a Veteran of the Korean War. I thank you for all of that. I understand you say you never saw combat because you are totally blind in one eye. My brother and father both were blind in their right eye.

You say you detest the media, politicians, lawyers, etc. Mr Simons, I believe you have cast an unfair net over all. Some of these people you denounce are standing up for you and me to make America Great! You say that no one tells the truth or even know what the truth means and you think it goes back to the educational system naming colleges, professors and parents. I think you are close but you have it backwards. It's parents first. You think the parents that got involved during the Vietnam period. Again you are casting a wide net. The Vietnam vets that came back damaged are still trying to do something with their lives. I pledge Thanks to those veterans, you and all the veterans that served whether they saw action or not.

Mr Simons, you complain about a Villages paper's choice of front page sports story full page vs a very small sidebar about the President being acquitted. You're right but I remember twenty years ago (approx) I got into an heated discussion about an editor's choice of front page picture. The Editor said to me "It's my choice as editor, if

you don't agree put out your own newspaper!"...Here I am!

Athletes make millions at the expense of the fans. The Assistant Coaches make \$800,000 to \$900,000 plus there are many Coaches at a game, again at the expense of the fans. They make enough money to live in a places called The (.....).

Publishers Note: This is one person's opinion. Again this was a hand written letter to me and I felt, it was too long so I answered it so you could tell what this person's opinion is! He is eighty eight years old and eighty eight years of experience is the way I look at it... Mr Simons again Thank You for your opinion and your service.

The Publisher

TomL

Dear Editor:

It is our responsibility. We the people have the power. The founding fathers knew we would need this capability eventually. These are urgent times in need of our exercise of that power, when we have bureaucrats selling us down the drain, for power and money.

If you have any knowledge of what is going on with and in China you know the time for action is long overdue.

A China BOYCOTT! If I was not able to get vitamins Made in the USA, I am prepared to stop taking vitamins. China RX told me what I needed to know to make that decision.

The Fate of Food did the same thing for food. And videos of bridges falling down intact, and ditto for buildings. China steel

leaps to mind.

When a plane goes down it is Chinese aluminum. This globalism is a deadly concept. America has high standards, other nations do not. Globalism is not my cup of tea. China products are frightening. My mantra is: all I want from China I will buy selectively from Dollar Tree.

My boycott of one person has not been very successful. I need help. Please: boycott deadly unsafe products, and read why. Do not just take my word. Not possible to include the whole story in one tiny letter.

D.I.L.

P.S. Wearing a sign: not been to China. Hope they get the message, I am safe to be near.

To the Editor

I almost feel sorry for those who cling to their misery, seeking to rain on the "Proud to be an American" parade. I like the growing positivism/optimism that is showing itself. Americans have, historically, been an optimistic, can-do people. Trump is bringing that attitude back!

These aren't my theories. It's a fact that Americans are the happiest in a very long time. Gallup just polled Americans about their 'satisfaction' level. An amazing 90% of Americans report feeling 'satisfied.' This is the all-time high in the history of Gallup polling. Even more remarkable, the number of Americans reporting they are 'very satisfied' hit 65%, also an all-time high."

"Optimism about our personal finances just hit an all-time record high. Confidence in the US economy just hit a 20-year high. Consumer confidence is at a 17-year high. Americans satisfied with the direction of this country just hit a 15-year high. 69% of small business owners report they benefitted from

Trump's tax cuts. The list goes on and on. Everyone is happy. Except Democrats." RC

Dear Editor:

By Jove, you have got it. The absolute goodness that has lain dormant and undiscovered in the black hearts for millennia upon millennia. Since the dawn of our species. Eve started it with her dumb apple, or, evolution. We will not quibble, your choice of how it started. Then we had a murder in the second generation, and on and on and on it goes.

Corruption, corruption, corruption. It has been hinted at but not confronted. We are in the midst of a most corrupt cycle right now.

Is now the time? Do we look at humans and see what our failings are? Killing, corruption, greed power: Where do these things come from, what do we do about them? Can they be fixed?

We are running around in the universe, when we have not figured how to manage our own small planet equitably. Now we will despoil the universe, too.? Technology is their weapon of choice. Beware!

The other item that demands attention is the human brain. When reform has been tried, it has been punitive, eugenics.

What about studying the genetic code, and correcting the defects? Do the commercials at St. Jude make you want something preventive to be done?

The brain is a harder but if we can conquer the universe, we should be able to conquer the complexities of the brain. It is a question of priorities. When your primary goal in life is power, humanness gets in the way. Globalists are the quintessential Power luster's of all time. Power is their drug of choice. Any civilization would be

Continued page 10

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CRACKERS DAYS

Crackers Days at Rainbow Springs State Park is a great annual event. The friends of Rainbow Springs the volunteer group for Rainbow Spring and the state park put on the event. They set up a 1800s camp in the back of the park, it was attended by approximately 2500 people over the two day event. There was a lot of history spoken. They had camp fire cooking, corn grinding, cattle whip cracking, Blue Grass by the Shade Tree Pickers, Dulcimer folk music by the Front Porch Folks. Food, games and good ole fashion fun. Don't miss next year...





# Strawberry Festival

Some 34,000 people attended the 7th annual Strawberry Festival 2020 put on by the Habitat of Ocala. It is a fund raiser. It has won the Best of the Best a number of times and I believe they will win again this time. In fact they have our best of the best from TomL Publishing.



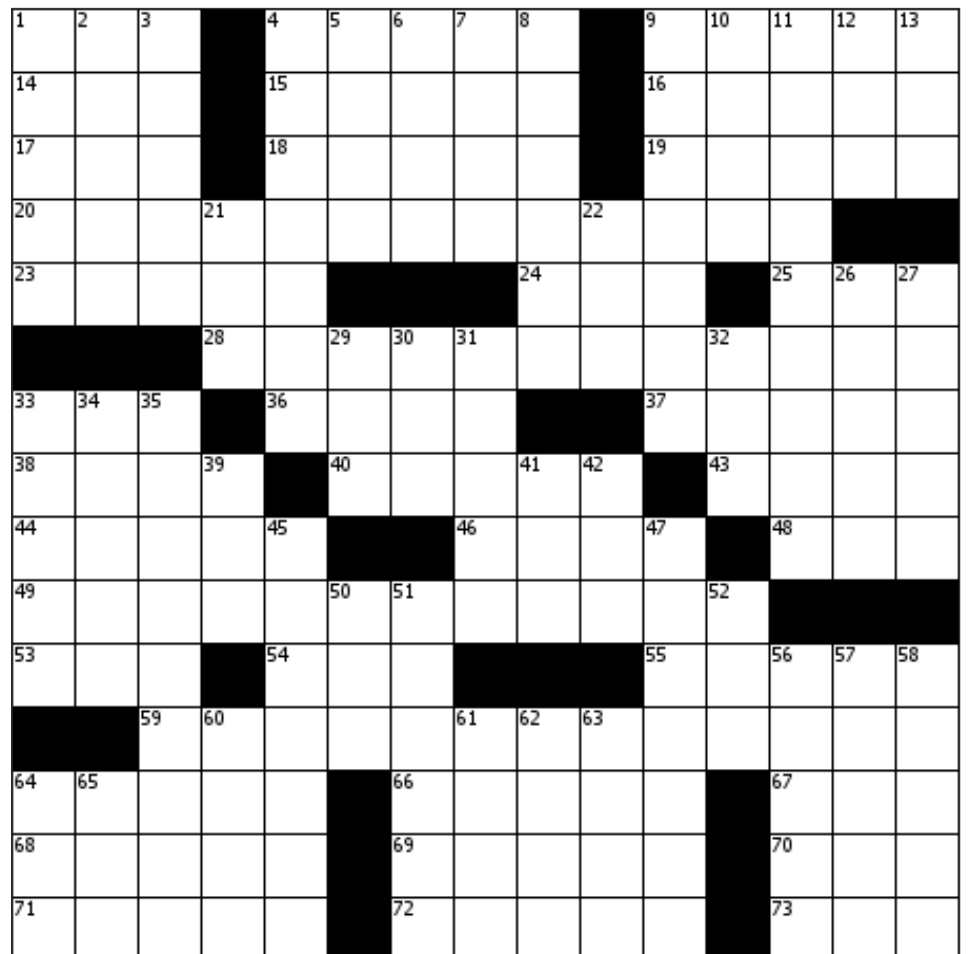


1. Electronics brand
4. Power-seeking clique
9. Puts first things first,  
e.g.
14. Pained reactions
15. Teacher of Stradivari
16. Dunderhead
17. Nanakuli neckwear
18. Very, musically
19. Word in a  
mouthwash spot, perhaps
20. Christmas gift from  
my true love
23. It can be hot or cold
24. Sniggler's quest
25. Hemingway title  
word
28. Christmas gift from  
my true love
33. High mountain
36. "Proud Mary" singer  
Turner
37. Kind of gun
38. Pierce with a tusk,  
e.g.
40. Neighbor of Sicily

49. Christmas gift from  
my true love  
53. "The Island of the  
Day Before" author  
54. Bygone big bird  
55. Where eagles dwell  
59. Christmas gift from  
my true love  
64. Homer hit  
66. Church riser  
67. Comedic unit  
68. Cuban ballroom  
dance  
69. Artist's tripod  
70. What I may mean  
71. They're cutting,  
sometimes  
72. Put on clothes  
73. Color that "suits"  
Santa

1. Fancy British car, informally
2. Much less than usual
3. Stage whisper

43. Beret site  
44. Marketplace near the Acropolis  
46. With a Y chromosome  
48. Come to understand  
Christmas gift from love  
The Island of the "Fore" author  
One big bird  
Where eagles dwell  
Christmas gift from love  
Her hit  
Arch riser  
Medical unit  
Ballroom  
St's tripod  
What I may mean  
You're cutting, yes  
On clothes  
For that "suits"  
A British car, really  
Less than usual  
Whisper
4. Round Table site  
5. Andy's partner  
6. Minus locks  
7. Lead-in to "boy!" or "girl!"  
8. Vibraphonist Hampton  
9. Nearly alike  
10. Father of Balder  
11. Great seating for fights  
12. Two-year-old, e.g.  
13. Sloppy digs  
21. "\_\_\_ Be Seeing You"  
22. Copyright symbol  
26. Related via one's mother  
27. Nod in unison  
29. Wheel part  
30. Carrier of genetic info  
31. Spicy game dish  
32. Butter measure  
33. With jaw dropped  
34. Aristotle's rule of reasoning  
35. Asking on bended knee  
39. Obsolete palindromic preposition  
41. What an anxious foot does  
42. Clay, after converting  
45. Fleets of warships  
47. Nail coatings



- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 50. Jupiter, to Saturn                 | 60. It could be minimum         |
| 51. Elapsed                            | 61. Sail support                |
| 52. Sherlock's Blue Carbuncle, for one | 62. Healthy, wealthy follower   |
| 56. Stringency                         | 63. Raises one's hackles        |
| 57. Vapid                              | 64. Word with tray or cube      |
| 58. Goaded (with "on")                 | 65. Former Israeli airport name |

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## FROM THE DESK OF GOVERNOR DESANTIS

### Governor Ron DeSantis Thanks Legislature for Taking Swift Action to Make Nearly \$28 Million in Federal Funds Available for COVID-19 Response

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis thanked members of the Florida Legislature for providing the necessary resources to address the state's ongoing response to COVID-19. The Legislature's action will support the Florida Department of Health's ability to receive new funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The Florida Department of Health now has the ability to receive nearly \$28 million in critical federal funds to support Florida's ongoing efforts to mitigate and contain COVID-19," said Governor DeSantis. "These funds will increase capacity in our state labs for more testing and support our efforts to investigate and monitor cases. I thank Senate President Galvano and House Speaker Oliva for their swift action to make these dollars available."

Today the Florida Department of Health received a notice of award for nearly \$28 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to address the COVID-19 response in Florida.

"The Florida Department of Health will immediately begin working with the federal government to access these dollars," said State Surgeon General Scott Rivkees. "Our state labs and epidemiological teams are

working around the clock and this grant will help ensure we can continue to increase our capacity to combat COVID-19."

### Governor Ron DeSantis Activates Emergency Bridge Loan Program for Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. The application period opens tomorrow, March 17, 2020 and runs through May 8, 2020.

"As we mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, the health, safety and well-being of Floridians comes first," said Governor DeSantis. "I understand the harm mitigation strategies will have on small businesses throughout our state. By activating the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan, we are providing the opportunity for Florida's small businesses to receive cash immediately to ensure they can lessen the impacts felt as a result of COVID-19."

DEO will administer the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network and Florida First Capital Finance Corporation to provide cash flow to businesses economically impacted by COVID-19. The

short-term, interest-free loans help bridge the gap between the time the economic impact occurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims or longer-term Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. Up to \$50 million has been allocated for the program.

"Governor DeSantis has been a true leader in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and has prioritized the safety of all Floridians," said Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director, Ken Lawson. "The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan will help Florida's small businesses get through this unsettling time. We appreciate the Governor's efforts to keep Florida's small businesses top of mind and our partners at the Florida SBDC Network and Florida First Capital Finance

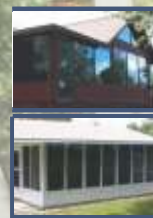
Corporation to help them recover."

Small business owners with two to 100 employees located in Florida affected by COVID-19 can apply for short-term loans up to \$50,000. These loans are interest-free for up to one year and are designed to bridge the gap to either federal SBA loans or commercially available loans. DEO will work with every borrower to ensure that repayment of the loan isn't an overwhelming burden. To be eligible, a business must have been established prior to March 9, 2020 and demonstrate economic impacts as a result of COVID-19.

"Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Florida must be our number one priority," said Florida SBDC Network CEO, Mike Myhre. "The Florida SBDC Network stands ready to assist Governor DeSantis and the

*Continued page 10*

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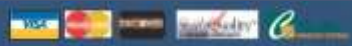
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## Letters

*Continued from page*  
crushed in their path.

This truly is the Zenith of civilization. Do you have any idea of the globalists plans for humans?

There are too any to list, but one or two will suffice, now. The planet can sustain 90 million people, the remainder are surplus, the rest of you are gone. If you cannot fulfill a globalist need, prepare to exit the planet. Your useful role will undoubtedly be a hard one. No freedom here. Power luster's want complete control, expect no free will.

Our bureaucrats and corporate executives have no loyalty to country, only to money. Money is a big hurdle we need to confront, and settle. Or you will be tormented by the shadow of socialism, and communism forever. Reform capitalism, or capitalists.

The surest success story is find a way to cultivate honest moral humans. Many sages through the ages have told us this is the answer, but we failed to recognize the warnings.

Even when a warning is plain as day, we gloss over it.

St. Thomas Aquinas said immigrants come in two flavors contributors to the society, and hostiles. The former are

welcome, the latter are not.

Reforming humans is not easy, and there are few willing to take up the challenge. However, there is a surplus of power luster's. What to do?

Millennials and Z's are not equipped to save this planet.

Any Greatest Generation left, who have experienced life and know the score? Experienced all that life has to through at you, and can still find the good, redeeming aspects in life?. Life is NOT all peaches and cream. We need to strive for more cream.

D.I.L.

Dear Editor:

How do we save SS? First, we take it away from the government. SS is a private fund, {it is our money} not to be touched by the government. It should never have been placed under the jurisdiction of any branch of government, for any purpose.

Our government has been taken over by the corrupt. The President is trying to drain the swamp. Doubt he will find all the corruption. One book after the other documents one corrupt scheme after the other. Some of them must be true.

The second challenge is finding honest people to administer the system. Anyone have a cure for dishonesty, greed, or avarice?

The founding fathers tried desperately to solve this problem for us: alas there is no solution for corruption. Vigilance and honest people {JOKE} is the only possible way to manage this problem.

When you do not pay attention bad things happen. LBJ thought SS was his honey pot, and he raided SS {moved it to a more convenient budget where it could be manipulated}. Now we are crying over spilt milk. Claims are made that it was not spent, but it is invested, and not available for our use. It was borrowed, 2 trillion. The money is invested in bonds collecting interest. Couldn't we invest in bonds and collect that interest, all the more for tax payer's retirement?

The milk will keep on spilling if we do not take action. Does anyone know how we can wrest SS's 2 trillion from the hands of the corrupt bureaucrats? In vulgar terms the government is screwing us.

When you cede responsibility this is the result. Are we ready to accept responsibility? Are we knowledgeable enough to handle our own retirement funds? Or will fretting continue to be our choice? My worrying days about SS are about over. You need to reflect on your future. Do you care? Remember, we are talking about 2 trillion.

## Governor

*Continued from page 9*

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help small businesses recover as a result of the impacts of COVID-19."

"We are ready to assist the Governor and state of Florida to deliver this vital assistance to the small business community we serve, as we have 23 times since 1992," said Florida First Capital Finance Corporation President and CEO, Todd Kocourek.

DEO is currently surveying businesses throughout the state of Florida who have been impacted by COVID-19. Businesses and non-profits can access the Business Damage Assessment survey at FloridaDisaster.BIZ Select "COVID-19" from the drop-down menu on the survey page. Response to the Business Damage Assessment survey is not an application for assistance. Businesses interested in the bridge loan program must fill out a bridge loan application.

For more information on the program, visit [www.floridadisasterloan.org](http://www.floridadisasterloan.org). For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at 866-737-7232 or email [Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org](mailto:Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org). The phone line will be answered during regular business hours; all voice mails and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.



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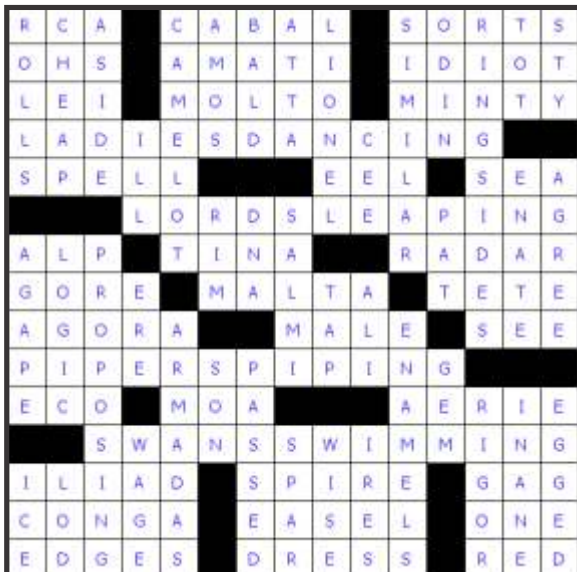
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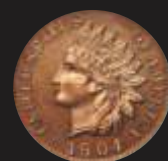
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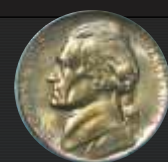


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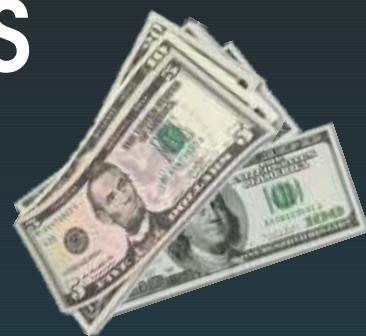
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