



New Member Welcome Reception & Orientation at The Waterfront Inn

We Mourn the Death of Commissioner Paul Hannon

It is with great sadness that the Town of Lady Lake announces the passing of Commissioner Paul Hannon. Commissioner Hannon was born in Danbury, Connecticut on Dec. 9, 1935. He proudly held dual citizenship between the United States and Ireland. After completing an enlistment in the Army, he worked for 28 years for several aerospace and technology Fortune 500 companies. He also owned two corporations in the real estate and food industries.

He had three children and two grandchildren. A resident of Lady Lake since 2002, he was first elected to the Town Commission in 2004 and served Ward Four continuously since that time. In 2019, he was recognized for his service and was recently honored for his support of Town employees. Commissioner Hannon exemplified dedication and loyalty to his community and strove to make the best choices for the residents of Lady Lake.

He promised to continue serving the Town of Lady Lake "as long as my health allows" and he did just that. Commissioner Hannon served on the Florida League of Cities Legislative Policy Committee and The Villages Architectural Review Committee. He previously sat on the Lake Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization Board and the Town of Lady Lake Planning & Zoning Board.



He was an enthusiastic member Central Florida Corvair Club and a longtime, loyal Apple product user. Mayor Jim Rietz will present a "Mayoral Citation for Dedication and Commitment to this Community" for Commission approval on July 3. It reads, in part, "Whereas, Paul was a great community leader and his absence will cause a deep void and sadness in Lady Lake ... Therefore, on behalf of the Town of Lady Lake, we would like to recognize and thank Paul F. Hannon for his almost twenty years of dedicated service to the Town of Lady Lake and the community."

Lady Lake PD K-9

Who: Town of Lady Lake and the Lady Lake Police Department

What: The Lady Lake Police Department will introduce its newest officer, K-9 Ember, to the community. K-9 Ember, a two-year-old black Labrador retriever, will be used primarily for patrol and detection duties. Working alongside his partner and handler, Officer Josh Higgins, Ember joins the department with 160 hours of narcotics and tracking training. He is able to track items as well as missing persons. In June, the Town Commission approved acquiring Ember from Central Florida K-9 of Eustis for \$10,000. The purchase was made possible due to the department's K-9 Donation Fund, provided by the Moritz Foundation.

When: Monday, July 17 at 6 p.m.

Where: Town Hall Commission Chambers, 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake

Why: K-9 Ember joins K-9 Fast, and fills the void left by K-9 Lux, who retired in April after six years of dedicated service.

Pictured:

Lake Police Chief Steve Hunt and Canine Handler Josh Higgins



A Horse With a Mission



WOODY THE PONY PLANS SPECIAL EVENT FOR HORSES WITH A MISSION SLATED FOR OCTOBER

(Groveland, FL., June 20, 2023) —Horses With A Mission (HWAM Groveland, FL) is celebrating five years in existence with a special event at Mulberry Grove Recreation Center in The Villages on

Continued page 2

STEVEN W. HUNT



Community Connections with Interim Police Chief Steve Hunt

It has been an eventful month at the Lady Lake Police Department, and I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the significant incidents and developments that have occurred. As always, the dedication and professionalism of our officers continue to impress me.

First, we want our residents to be aware of the new constitutional gun carry law that took effect July 1. This legislation allows a person to carry a concealed weapon without a valid concealed weapons license as long as the criteria for obtaining a license is met. It does not authorize the open carry of a firearm.

Our dedication to the community was exemplified by our participation in an amazing fireworks show on July 1. Setting up our booth at the Guava Street Athletic Complex, we had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with children and families, building positive relationships. The event showcased the dedication and teamwork of our officers on site, while our patrol crew handled calls for service.

Additionally, as part of the Children's Summer Reading program at the Lady Lake Library, the department was proud to present Bike Safety for Kids, which included giveaways of free helmets and bicycles. The event is part of the Police Department's Safer

Kids in Lady Lake Program (SKILL), which takes place several times a year.

However, amidst the positive moments, we must acknowledge the challenges we faced, including a shooting incident on Caroline Avenue on June 30 resulting in one death and one injury. As we continue to work this case diligently, we ask the community to assist by calling CRIMELINE at 800-423-8477 with any tips.

I'd also like to take a moment to welcome our newest department member, K-9 Ember. He recently began his training alongside Officer Josh Higgins, marking an exciting milestone for our team. He was introduced to the public and Commission on July 17. K-9 Ember is a two-year-old black Labrador retriever who will be used primarily for patrol and detection duties. Ember joins the department with 160 hours of narcotics and tracking training. He is able to track items as well as missing persons. In June, the Town Commission approved acquiring Ember from Central Florida K-9 of Eustis for \$10,000. The purchase was made possible due to the department's PD K-9 Donation Fund, provided by the Moritz Foundation.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance our hiring process, we have introduced a Certified Voice Stress Analysis exam for candidates. This test, similar to a polygraph but more cost-effective, will add an extra layer of integrity to our recruitment procedures. I'm grateful to the neighboring police department for administering the test free of charge.

The Lady Lake Police Department is seeking dedicated officers who want to make a difference in their community. To learn more, visit ladylake.org.

Horse with a Mission

Continued from page 1



April R. Linscott

October 28, 2023. The organization helps individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities gain strength and confidence with the help of horses. The horses, all retired from previous careers (donated or purchased for this program) range in age from 13 to 33 years and are specifically trained for this job.

Pictured here: Woody a Shetland Pony, age 13 is trained to go out in public and help those in need and represent our program. He is small but mighty and has a big job here on the farm. He helps one of our therapy horses Franklin who is going blind. Woody is training a new partner Radar the mini donkey for public appearances and help on the farm.

Horses With A Mission, a 501(c)3 non-profit since 2010 provides therapeutic riding lessons, a

technique to help the body to relax and improve coordination, balance and self-assurance. Vicki D'Angelo, Director of the program is a PATH certified therapeutic riding instructor has taught

therapeutic riding since 2018. The program draws participants and volunteers from four counties. Currently on the roster there are 65 students and a waitlist of 50+. We have 70 volunteers, 20 of which are village residents. The volunteers groom horses and serve as lead and sidewalkers during lessons. The lessons are not held during the summer months due to the heat although the farm and horse expenses continue. "David, my husband and I find it relaxing to go to the farm and be with the horses. We love being there and helping Vicki and Mickey", states April Linscott, a Villager who has volunteered with HWAM since 2022.

The event, "A Special Night Celebrating Horses and Friends", will be held October 28 and is an event to raise money and spread the good word about the organization at the farm located at 16540 Lake Stewart Drive, Groveland, FL 34736. Tickets will cost \$50, which includes entry and your meal. The evening festivities includes: dinner, entertainment, raffle and silent auction. The dress will be cowboy casual and a contest will be held to select the best cowboy hat worn that night. Woody and his 11 horse friends are seeking sponsorships and participants for the event. Sponsorship packages are being developed.

If you or your company are interested in being a sponsor or donating, please send an email to

vicki@hwamfl.org or call 585-356-4673. Website address is <https://www.hwamfl.org>

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear friends,
The previous two columns we have been reporting to you on the 2023 Legislative Session and today we are bringing you the third installment in this series. This month we will continue by highlighting some other passed legislation that will be of interest to you.

Last month's release of the blockbuster film "Sound of Freedom" has captivated American audiences and, rightfully so, brought much attention and awareness to the devastation of human trafficking. Florida continues to lead on this front to the best of our ability (our federal government must step up and secure our borders!) and a number of bills were passed to help us combat this issue. One such bill was SB 7064 by Senator Ileana Garcia. This bill requires that law enforcement officers successfully complete 4 hours of training in identifying and investigating human trafficking as part of their basic recruit training or additional training. The Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission will develop the training in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs and the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. Further, SB 7064 also establishes the state's unified Statewide Data Repository for Anonymous Human Trafficking Data at the University of South Florida Trafficking in Persons - Risk to Resilience Lab. The human trafficking data, which must be submitted by law enforcement agencies and other entities, will be used to aid in combating human trafficking, prosecuting those engaged in human trafficking, and assisting victims of human trafficking.

The Biden Administration has failed to protect our border. Because of this, Florida is now under a declared state of emergency. The Florida Senate cannot independently fix the immigration process in this country, but we can make it clear that we value law and order, and we value the lives of immigrants being smuggled in to this country. SB 1718 requires private employers, with 25 or more employees, to use E-Verify for new employees, beginning on July 1, 2023. Also, any employer who knowingly hires an unauthorized alien will face penalties of

license suspension or revocation. The bill makes human smuggling a second degree felony adds human smuggling to the list of crimes that allow for prosecution under Florida's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act. The legislation provides for invalidating driver's licenses exclusively issued by another state to undocumented immigrants, and requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to issue citations and maintain a list of out-of-state classes of driver licenses that are invalid.

The Florida Senate is committed to protecting our communities from the influx of deadly drugs on our streets. As criminals find new ways to harm our communities, it is imperative that we provide law enforcement the tools they need to stop them in their tracks. Synthetic alternatives of fentanyl are emerging in our country that are even more dangerous. SB 736 takes a proactive step by placing nitazene a drug much more potent than heroine or morphine, on the Schedule I substance list, empowering prosecutors to bring the full power of the law and help get these drugs off the streets. HB 365 makes it a second degree felony or a first degree felony (second or subsequent offense) for an adult to unlawfully distribute heroin, fentanyl, fentanyl-related substances, and mixtures containing any of these substances, and an injury or overdose results, when such substance or mixture is proven to have caused or been a substantial factor in causing the injury or overdose. The bill ranks the second degree felony in level 6 of the Criminal Punishment Code offense severity ranking chart.

We hope you find this informative and encouraging. Florida is strong, and we continue to lead this country on very important issues. Thank you for letting me serve you in the Florida Senate.

Onward & Upward. – Senator Dennis Baxley



DeKalb County, Georgia.

Ellison was located in an apartment complex in DeKalb County, where he was taken into custody and a search warrant was executed.

Ellison has been on the run from law enforcement since a warrant was issued earlier this year for his arrest for First-Degree Murder in connection with the Umatilla homicide. He is from the Orlando area and authorities there have sought him in connection with cases they are investigating.

Ellison is the third suspect to be arrested in connection with Hart's murder. Previously arrested were 51-year-old Undray Tony Benson and 32-year-old Deandre Bernard Anderson.

Dementia Caregiver Conference

Sumter County Sheriff's Office and Coping with Dementia team up to present free family caregiver conference

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office announces its partnership in a free conference for families living with dementia at the Savannah Center in The Villages on October 30, 2023. The event will be organized by Coping with Dementia LLC, a dementia education and training company that has presented successful conferences in Citrus County since 2014.

About the event, Sumter Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer Jr. says, "The extraordinary growth of Sumter County -- along with Lake and Marion counties -- has developed one of the most senior demographic populations in the nation. One result is that dementia, which becomes more common among citizens over the age of 65, has become a pressing issue affecting public safety and our quality of life. I think it's a great time to partner in this free major event that will give our citizens an opportunity to learn about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, and to inform them of the many resources that are available to lighten the load of dementia care."

Space has been reserved for an audience of 300 at the Savannah Center, located at 1545 North Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages. More than two-dozen companies and services will be available to offer free information, as well as expert speakers who will talk about dementia in plain language. A light lunch will also be provided.

Coping with Dementia President Debbie Selsavage promises that the conference will surpass expectations. She states, "We've had a decade to develop this format, and we will deliver an educational event that will surprise attendees in its optimistic tone and useful content." She adds, "And we welcome both caregivers and their loved ones living with dementia. No one is excluded."

While the conference is free, reservations are required for planning purposes. The reservation process will begin on August 1, 2023. For more information prior to that date, please call 352-422-3663.

Media inquiries call Ed Youngblood at 614-519-2843

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EVENTS

TLoury@att.net

Cutting-Edge Technology



Learning to Save Lives With Cutting-Edge Technology

(NAPSI)—For most people, a college education can lead to a better life, but for one group of students at a unique institution, it can lead to saving lives.

EMS Education

At Texas State Technical College (TSTC), the Emergency Medical Services program has taken training students to a new level with the introduction of the first complete ambulance simulator in North America.

Echo Healthcare delivered to TSTC's Abilene campus a Ford F350 ambulance that was converted from a road-operating vehicle to a full-size simulator.

Coby Meyer, Echo Healthcare's chief operating officer, explained the reason: "When it comes to

Why It's Needed

According to onetonline.org, the need for paramedics in Texas was expected to grow 19% between 2020 and 2030. The annual average salary for paramedics in Texas is \$48,380.

In its Emergency Medical Services program, TSTC offers an Associate of Applied Science degree in Paramedic, as well as certificates of completion in Emergency Medical Services—EMT, Emergency Medical Services—Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Emergency Medical Services—Paramedic. The program is available at the Abilene, Brownwood and Harlingen campuses.

How it Works

To turn the ambulance into a classroom, the engine was replaced with SimLeader technology and the windshield and side windows are now equipped with large video monitors that give trainees the feeling of actually traveling on various roadways.

The ambulance is used to play out different scenarios. Students begin by responding to a medical scene in TSTC's Immersive Interactive lab. The scene, displayed on three walls and the floor in a different classroom, could range from a city park to a family home.

The trainees arrive on the scene to find a medical manikin. They assess the patient and begin the transport process from the scene to the ambulance. Once loaded into the ambulance, one student will be in the back treating the patient while the other will be driving.

Instructors will be able to see what is happening through video monitors, letting them change road conditions through the installed computer programming. Those road conditions could include skidding on ice or hitting a pothole, which will actually give those inside the feeling that they are

Continued page 4

Lake County News

Lake County Sheriff's Office Hosting Annual Project Kid Connect Backpack Giveaway

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is excited to announce its annual back-to-school festival and school supply giveaway. The event, known as Project Kid Connect, is being held on Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office South Lake District Office, located at 15855 State Road 50 in Clermont.

Kids in attendance will be given a free backpack containing free school supplies. There will also be music, free food and drinks, a dunk-a-deputy tank, and other fun games and activities.

The purpose of this event is to bring kids and law enforcement together in a positive and fun atmosphere. As such, children must

be present and must be residents of Lake County in order to receive a backpack. Backpacks are being given out on a first-come-first-served basis and supplies are limited.

The Sheriff's Office would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of this year's sponsors for contributing to this cause and making the event possible.

Third Suspect in Custody for 2022 Murder in Umatilla

On Friday, July 7, the third suspect from the November 2022 murder of Antwain Hart in Umatilla was located and taken into custody. Lake sheriff's detectives, investigators from the Orlando Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals located 40-year-old Marvin Habakkuk Ellison, Jr. in

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



Check this out
Democrats kill a bill for tuition assistance for Children of Veterans Killed in Battle.... Then they approved giving tuition to the Illegal Aliens Free...Think about that!!!

Believe it or Not: Now Marco Polo, a nonprofit that focuses on investigating political corruption, has uncovered emails on Hunter's laptop suggesting that in 2016 a Burisma executive, Vadym Pozharskyi, set up a bank account in Malta for Hunter. Pozharskyi is an associate of Burisma founder Mykola Zlochevsky; Hunter and his father allegedly got \$5 million each from Zlochevsky. Emails between Pozharskyi and Hunter suggest Burisma planned to use the account to send more money to the Bidens.

What happened 173 years ago.
September 9, 1850! California became a

state! The people had no electricity, the state had no money and almost everyone spoke Spanish. There were gunfights in the streets. As you can see today nothing has changed.
In the pioneer days there was a sign at the state line of California. You are now entering California, land of milk and Honey. Now there is a sign as people leave California. Now leaving California The land of Taxation. Remember when you are in a parking lot in Florida pedestrians have the right of way, they also have the right to carry. It's called parking lot rage! Don't run over a Floridian.

TIME DOES NOT STOP! Life is a task that we do ourselves every day. This time today, unfortunately, never returns...

The time is now and the day is today!
WE ARE NO LONGER AT AN AGE TO POSTPONE ANYTHING. Geewizz, that sounds a little like Vice President K Harris.

Illegals are allowed to use a copy of their arrest record as a form of Identification to

get on an airplane????? WHAT???

A million people incarcerated received stimulus checks totaling over a Billion dollars??????? WHAT???

Only 163 are serving life sentences and will never get out of prison!

Till next month TomLtloury@att.net

Technology

Continued from page 3
sliding or bouncing.
Once the students arrive at the virtual hospital, the patient will be transported back to the Immersive Interactive lab, which will be reset into a virtual emergency room.
“Cutting-edge technology in EMS education accomplishes much more than providing an efficient, safe and realistic opportunity for students to learn,” said Ronnie Pitts, director of decision support of TSTC's Allied Health division. “TSTC creates learning environments that inspire students to embrace innovation, adapt to technological advancements, and actively contribute to the rapidly evolving world. We are preparing them to be future leaders, problem-solvers and contributors in a technology-driven society in as lifelike a simulation as possible.”

Good For The Profession
For ambulance companies, the simulator will save time spent in training employees. “We send our EMTs to a two- to three-day course for them to learn how to drive an ambulance,” said Will Hendon, the North Texas regional director of Global Medical Response and a 2010 TSTC EMS graduate. “Imagine driving a smaller car your entire life. Getting into the driver's seat of an ambulance will feel overwhelming. It brakes differently than a regular vehicle, and it accelerates differently. This is going to help ambulance companies in that respect the most.”

Good for the Students
Kyle Nichols, a current Paramedic student at TSTC, sees another benefit of the simulator. “To have someone actually in the driver's seat so we will be able to communicate time and distance from the hospital will be vital to our training,” he

said. “Our entire career is built around good communication.”
Learn More
For further information, visit www.tstc.edu.

Lady Gaga and Migraines



Lady Gaga Wants People with Migraine to Know They Are Not Alone
(NAPSI)—Lady Gaga has been living with a silent disease—migraine—for most of her life, having been diagnosed when she was 14 years

old. Her migraine attacks were so severe, she was often bedridden for days. She couldn't read or keep lights on and would have to be alone in a quiet room for hours, or sometimes even days, until the pain subsided. Lady Gaga continued to experience migraine attacks into adulthood and the disease has impacted all aspects of her life.

“By the time I was 25, I was dealing with other medical conditions along with my migraine. The combination of pain from migraines and managing these other conditions had become so difficult that I was barely functional. And the migraines were now much more present. The hardest part about dealing with this change in my life is that it was now not once a month that I was getting migraines, but much more frequently.”

This is the first time Lady Gaga has spoken about her experience with migraine, and she hopes that sharing her story will help empower others to be more vocal about their migraine pain. Migraine, which affects nearly 40 million Americans, is considered the second-most disabling condition worldwide.1,2

Lady Gaga spoke to her doctor and began taking Nurtec® ODT (rimegepant) as an acute treatment for migraine. “I’m so

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Newspaper Deadlines
Editorial & Ad Copy for September
Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
Noon, August 18th
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, August 23rd

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God Bless our Troops
Support Our Veterans
We Endorse The Constitution

Reverse Mortgage Explained

July 11, 12:30pm
The Standard Coffee Lounge, 1552 Bella Cruz, The Villages

Register: 352-600-6655 or www.RMexplained.com

Learn the History, Myths, Facts
and How Reverse Mortgages Work.

Presented by:
Dan Kapellen
NMLS 2302495
Certified Reverse Mortgage
Specialist
Resident of The Villages

BBB Accredited Business
Pacific Lending Group Mortgage Bankers
CREV Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist

FAIRTax



The current federal income tax system is clearly broken - unfair, overly complex and almost impossible for most Americans to understand. But there is a reasonable, nonpartisan alternative before Congress that is both fair and easy to understand. A system that allows you only pay taxes on what you spend. The FAIRtax is a nation sales tax that treats every person equally and allows American businesses to thrive while generating the same tax revenue as the current tax code. The FAIRtax is a REPLACEMENT not an add-on to the income tax. Under the FAIRtax, every person in the U.S. will pay a sales tax on purchases of NEW goods and services, excluding necessities due to the prebate. The FAIRtax rate after necessities is 23% compared to combining the 15% income tax bracket with the 7.65% of employee payroll taxes under the current system- both of which will be eliminated. Your paycheck will be what you earned without federal deductions giving you an instant raise in pay. The FAIRtax puts Social Security and Medicare on a more solid funding foundation. Instead of being funded by taxes on worker's wages, which is a small pool, they will be funded by taxes on overall consumption by all residents. The FAIRtax provides a progressive program called a prebate. This gives every legal resident household an "advance refund" at the beginning of each month so that purchases made up to the poverty level are tax free. This prevents an unfair burden on low-income families. Tax evasion and the underground economy under the current system, costs each taxpayer an additional \$2,500 every year. But by taxing consumption the FAIRtax puts everyone in the country at the same level at the cash register. Further, only citizens and legal resident are eligible for the prebate. The I.R.S. Is no longer needed. No more complicated tax forms, individual audits or intrusive federal bureaucracy. Retailers will collect the FAIRtax just as they do now with state sales taxes and remit to the state. All money will be collected by the states and remitted to the U.S. Treasury and both the retailers and the states will be paid a fee for their collection service. By paying taxes on what you spend, you will be in control of your financial destiny. You alone control your tax burden by how much or little you consume. If you're thrifty, you'll pay lower taxes than someone who is not. Most importantly, you'll be taxed fairly. For more information, go to FAIRtax.org

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Lady Gaga

Continued from page 4

grateful to my family, friends and fans for going on this journey with me throughout the years so I can share my story and hopefully it will help more people find the relief they need," said Lady Gaga. You can learn more about Lady Gaga's migraine story and Nurtec ODT at nurtec.com/ladygaga.

WHAT IS NURTEC ODT?

Nurtec ODT orally disintegrating tablets is a prescription medicine that is used to treat migraine in adults. It is for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura and the preventive treatment of episodic migraine. It is not known if Nurtec ODT is safe and effective in children.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Do not take Nurtec ODT if you are allergic to Nurtec ODT (rimegepant) or any of its ingredients.

Before you take Nurtec ODT, tell your healthcare provider (HCP) about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- have liver problems,
- have kidney problems,
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant,
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Tell your HCP about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Nurtec ODT may cause serious side effects including allergic reactions, including trouble breathing and rash. This can happen days after you take Nurtec ODT. Call your HCP or get emergency help right away if you have swelling of the face, mouth, tongue, or throat or trouble breathing. This occurred in less than 1% of patients treated with Nurtec ODT.

The most common side effects of Nurtec ODT were nausea (2.7%) and stomach pain/indigestion (2.4%). These are not the only possible side effects of Nurtec ODT. Tell your HCP if you have any side effects.

You are encouraged to report side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088 or report side effects to Pfizer at 1-833-4Nurtec.

See full Prescribing Information and Patient Information.

Footnotes:

1. Buse et al. Burden of Illness Among People with Migraine and ? 4 Monthly Headache Days While Using Acute and/or Preventive Prescription Medications for Migraine. Journal of Managed Care & Specialty Pharmacy. 2020;26(10):1334-1343.

2. GBD 2016 Headache Collaborators. Global, regional, and national burden of migraine and tension-type headache, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. Lancet Neurol 2018;17(11):954-976.

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Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting for Acupuncture Xin Chinese Clinic located in Bailey Plaza



Lady Lake Chamber Ribbon Cutting for Dental Care at Magnolia

STOP DRIVE ADVISORY

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- 2003 **DODGE RAM PICKUPS**
- 2005-2008 **DODGE MAGNUM**
- 2005-2010 **CHRYSLER 300**
- 2005-2010 **DODGE CHARGER**
- 2008-2010 **DODGE CHALLENGER**



3rd Annual Charity Golf SCRAMBLE



Proceeds for Various Local Charities

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
8:30 AM SHOTGUN START

ENTRY FEE: \$400.00 PER FOURSOME
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ENTRY DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
FORMAT: 4- PERSON 18 HOLE SCRAMBLE

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* CLOSEST TO PIN - PAR 3's & MORE

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Ocala Villages News

Remember To Check For Safety Recalls
The Problem
Safety recalls can pose the risk of severe injury to passengers, so vehicle owners and operators should regularly check to see if any recent recalls affect their vehicle. An example of a recent announcement that consumers should be aware of is the urgent Stop-Drive Advisory issued in July to
Continued on page 13

Why Join The Lady Lake Area Chamber?

- **Networking Opportunities**- Connect with business professionals
- **Visibility** - Get noticed in your community
- **Credibility**- Membership raises your business reputation
- **Discounts**- Take advantage of member- only discounts
- **Learning**- Member only speaker series on business topics
- **Give Back**- Volunteer on committees to help the community

Contact us today to be added to our email list and stay connected to local businesses & events!



352-753-6029

Dr Xin Ma



Have you heard about the natural benefits of Acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a traditional Chinese medicine practice that helps align the body through meridians. Prior to getting acupuncture, the doctor will ask about your health history and may give you a physical exam. During your session, thin needles may be placed in specific areas to address your concern or condition.

As a practitioner from China, Dr. Ma brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to residents at his practice in Summerfield. As an herbalist, Dr. Ma may custom blend Chinese herbs exclusively for you as part of the session.

An acupuncture session usually takes 30

minutes, although some appointments may be longer. The number of treatments will depend on the condition being treated, however, you should feel improvement with each treatment.

These testimonials are from real recipients of acupuncture from Dr. Ma at the Acupuncture Xin Chinese Clinic.

"Dr. Ma is truly remarkable and his exceptional understanding of the functions of the human body is only exceeded by his heart and dedication to helping people live pain-free." - Sue, The Villages

"For years I have suffered from ongoing back issues. A recent incident caused my back to go into a spasm and I was unable to get out of bed or walk on my own without a walker. I visited Dr. Ma and after a 20-minute treatment, I was walking upright on my own, with no pain. I have continued treatment with Dr. Ma and I can proudly say that at 36 years old I am finally enjoying my life again. Don't let pain hold you back from living." - Leslie, Lady Lake

"I want to share my experience, before visiting Dr. Ma. My right knee has been so painful that I have not been able to work in the yard, take the dog for a walk, or just go shopping. After seeing Dr. Ma just a few times the pain in my knee is gone. I can walk quickly and without pain. I am continuing treatment with Dr. Ma for full-body health. He is helping me with more energy and brain fog. I am looking forward to feeling better and better." - Janet, The Villages

If you would like to schedule an appointment at Acupuncture Xin Chinese Clinic with Dr. Ma, call the office at 352-239-9641. You may also visit the office at Bailey Plaza 16850 S. Hwy 441, Ste 305, Summerfield FL 34491

Children's Summer Reading

As part of the Children's Summer Reading program at the [Lady Lake Library](#), the Lady Lake Police Department presented Bike Safety for Kids today, which included free helmets and fittings, giveaways and bicycle raffles. The event is part of the Police Department's Safer Kids in Lady Lake Program (SKILL), which takes place several times a year.



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Lady Lake Chamber Luncheon




Lady Lake Chamber Luncheon





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ANIMAL
CONTROL**



DONATIONS APPRECIATED!

Lady Lake Animal Control works to protect and care for local animals within the town. The department is in need of:

- Dawn dish soap
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Dog and cat food
- Towels

Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Lady Lake Animal Control
136 Skyline Drive, Lady Lake

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Snooky Blanton, Snooky - age 18

Snooky Park Dedication

Lady Lake dedicates Snooky Park in honor of Pearl Harbor veteran

LADY LAKE - The Town of Lady Lake invited the public to celebrate the ribbon cutting of Snooky Park, a natural oasis in the heart of historic Lady Lake, named for U.S. Navy veteran Atticus "Snooky" Blanton, who was lost on the USS Arizona in the attack on Pearl Harbor. The event will be held on Thursday, June 29 at 10 a.m. at 120 W. Lady Lake Blvd., Lady Lake.

The new park is a natural preserve with a 2,000-foot walking trail, surrounded by a canopy of cedar, live oaks, water oaks and

palm trees. It features amenities such as picnic shelters, water fountains and restrooms.

"Snooky Park is a long-awaited passive recreation facility in the Town of Lady Lake," said Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske. "We are fortunate to have the support of the Commission to help us preserve this beautiful and historic area of Lady Lake."

Atticus "Snooky" Blanton was born on Dec. 20, 1920 in Fort Myers and grew up among family in Lady Lake. At age 18, during the Great Depression, he found

himself without job experience and decided to join the Navy. In 1940, he enlisted and his early letters home talked about his good fortune in being assigned to the USS Arizona, which was docked in California.

"Snooky," then a Shipfitter 3rd Class, told his family that his ship was sailing to Pearl Harbor. What he did not know was that on Dec. 7, 1941, Japan would order an attack on the Navy base and ships at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The USS Arizona was struck by eight armor-piercing bombs. It is thought that most of the Arizona's crew members died instantly during the explosion. More than 1,100 sailors and Marines were lost along with the ship.

Snooky's 16-year-old sister, Patricia, was

in the Lady Lake Methodist Church that life-altering Sunday completing plans for the annual Christmas program. She was interrupted by the devastating news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ten days later, Snooky's mother, Annie Lottie Blanton, sat upright and stared into the sunset after receiving the telegram from the War Department. It read: "Your son Atticus Lee Blanton is missing in action." A month later, a second telegram arrived, which read the same as the first, but continued with "and presumed dead."

The Town of Lady Lake is honored to dedicate Snooky Park in honor of lost hometown hero, Atticus "Snooky" Blanton.



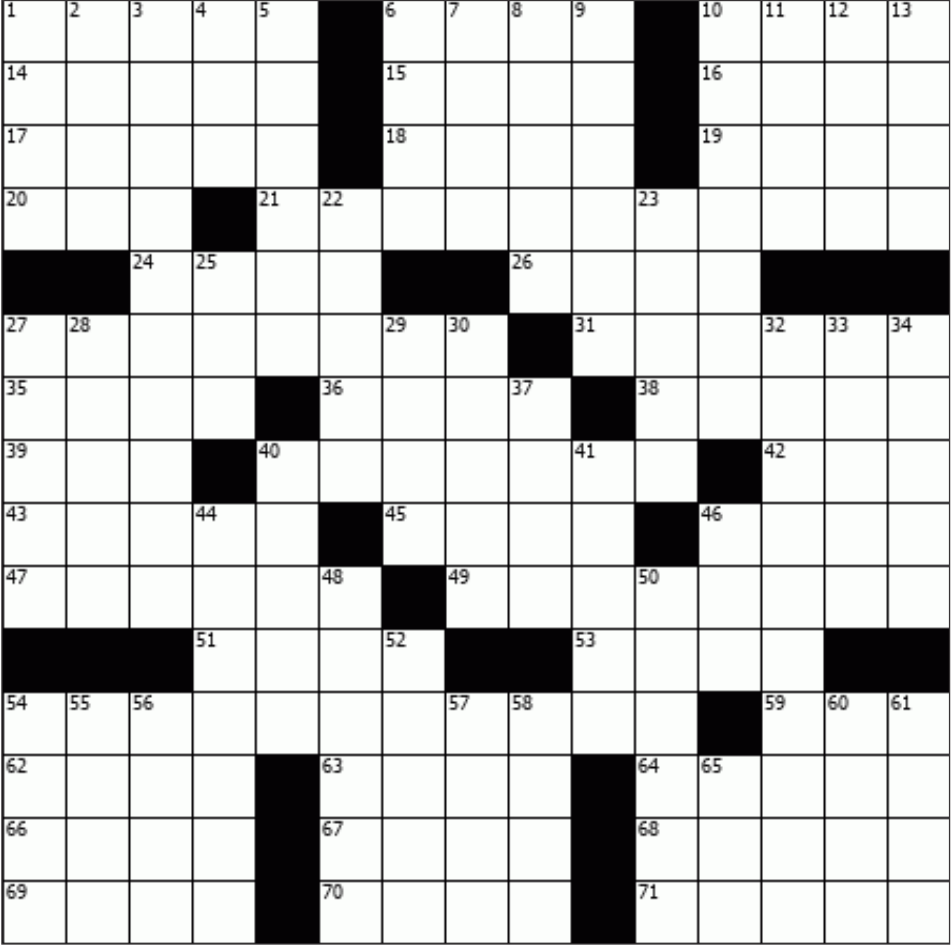
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- Across
- 1. Mormon title
 - 6. Sound projectors?
 - 10. Word with beaten or by
 - 14. Blackmore's Doone
 - 15. Shrimp part, sometimes
 - 16. Famous canal
 - 17. Prepares for target practice
 - 18. First lady of scat
 - 19. Tiny stream
 - 20. Suntan lotion inits.
 - 21. Result of an interior decorator/telemarketer union?
 - 24. Larger-life separator
 - 26. Sheet of ice
 - 27. Organize, in a way
 - 31. Sailor or comedian
 - 35. "God ___ our side"
 - 36. Many lipstick shades
 - 38. Item used in curling
 - 39. ___ Maria liqueur
 - 40. Figurative language
- Down
- 1. These wings don't flap
 - 2. Flying stunt
 - 3. Result of a bartender/carpenter union?
 - 4. It may be bitter
 - 5. Spanky, for one
- 42. Words with leash or whim
 - 43. Dresses with fat
 - 45. Remote button, perhaps
 - 46. Of common origin
 - 47. Ingratiate oneself
 - 49. Accentuates
 - 51. Luang Prabang's locale
 - 53. Astringent substance
 - 54. Result of a watchmaker/pharmacist union?
 - 59. ___ broche (cooked on a spit)
 - 62. Landslide
 - 63. Midwife's action
 - 64. Seven-time batting champion Rod
 - 66. Disk or bachelor ending
 - 67. Edible root
 - 68. Spud
 - 69. Emulates Pac-Man
 - 70. Laurel of slapstick
 - 71. Insolent
- 6. Declare confidently
 - 7. Soften, as a heart
 - 8. Seasoned rice dish
 - 9. Whelk and winkle
 - 10. One part in a hundred
 - 11. Lily Pons specialty
 - 12. Money drawer
 - 13. Alternative to high water
 - 22. Render defenseless
 - 23. Rambunctious
 - 25. Nomadic barbarian
 - 27. "The Odd Couple," e.g.
 - 28. Chinese or Indian, e.g.
 - 29. Ravens or Cardinals, e.g.
 - 30. Peripheries
 - 32. Result of a librarian/professor union?
 - 33. Orphan of stage and film
 - 34. College officials
 - 37. On its way, as a fax
 - 40. Stern with a bow
 - 41. "R" in RFD
 - 44. Erases, as a disk
 - 46. Sun Devils' sch.
 - 48. Pot and rib
 - 50. Provides a seat for
 - 52. Sound of a wet impact
 - 54. Corner
 - 55. Slightest trace
 - 56. Jeff's pal
 - 57. Gilbert of "Roseanne"
 - 58. Stratford-Avon link
 - 60. Dregs
 - 61. Off-kilter
 - 65. Battery type



been up to this week, and as always, you can stay up to date with us here, on [our website](#), and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

Therapy Resources, Coverage For Individuals Who Stutter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Representatives Kat Cammack (R-FL), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Neal Dunn, M.D. (R-FL), Donald Norcross (D-NJ), Andy Barr (R-KY), Morgan McGarvey (D-KY), Ronny L. Jackson, M.D. (R-TX), Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA), Jodey C. Arrington (R-TX), and Shontel M. Brown (D-OH) requested more information on the federal health benefits available to individuals who stutter to better understand gaps in coverage in a letter to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Department of Defense Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness Gil Cisneros, and U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director Kiran Ahuja.

"Access to effective speech therapy with a skilled Speech Language Pathologist who understands stuttering and people who stutter is crucial to managing and treating stuttering. Through speech therapy, individuals learn how to identify the moment of stuttering and use specialized speech interventions to promote greater confidence, and more effective communication," wrote the Members of Congress. "To help us better understand current coverage policy and support available to identify any existing barriers to care, we request information regarding federal coverage for the assessment, diagnosis, and follow-up speech therapy under the following programs: Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPVA, TRICARE, and the FEHB program."

"There has always been a difference between my life and my career. My personal experiences with stuttering led me to make sure three million Americans feel heard," said NBA veteran Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. "I'm very appreciative of the bipartisan support behind this selfless effort."

Read the full letter at [cammack.house.gov](#).

Rep. Cammack Announces Gainesville Regional Airport Awarded \$6.3M Grant For Infrastructure Improvements

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) announced the Gainesville Regional Airport's award of \$6,354,437 to improve infrastructure and acquire a new aircraft firefighting vehicle.

"Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV) continues to be an important part of our community in North Central Florida, providing commercial and chartered flights each day to destinations across the south and along the eastern seaboard," said **Congresswoman Cammack**. "To continue the service patrons have come to expect at Gainesville Regional, it's imperative to improve the infrastructure and continue to attract more travelers who deserve the best visitor experience possible. I know GNV will put the funds to good use, and I look forward to seeing the improvements."

"We appreciate the efforts of all who helped to make this grant possible," said **Allan J. Penska, Chief Executive Officer of the Gainesville Regional Airport**. "These funds are vital to our continued growth and maintenance of key infrastructure. The state-of-the-art aircraft firefighting and rescue vehicle will replace an older unit that is due for retirement. Continued improvements to our general aviation pavements allow us to better serve the many charter aircraft that visit our facility, facilitates new storage hangars, and extends the life of critical infrastructure."

The grant is part of the FY23 Airport Improvement Program (AIP) administered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Rep. Cammack Leads Bipartisan Letter To Top U.S. Officials On Speech

FROM THE DESK OF CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Social Media Censorship & Opposing Funding For Adolescent Gender Reassignment Surgeries Take Center Stage

The House Energy & Commerce Committee met for a markup of dozens of health bills, including one for funding children's hospitals. Debate got heated, however, over an amendment to prohibit or allow gender reassignment surgeries at the facilities funded by taxpayer dollars. I showed a video exposing the truth about these surgeries and Democrats walked out. You can watch the outrageous exchange below.

Additionally, the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held a hearing about social media censorship with Democratic presidential candidate RFK Jr., a censored journalist who broke the Hunter Biden laptop story, and others. You can watch my testimony during the hearing below.

Finally, the Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing on strengthening our electric grids and protecting them from foreign threats. Take a look at the hearing below!

With all that's happening this Congress, it is my greatest honor to represent you and hear from you about the issues that matter most. You can read below about what we've been up to this week, and as always, you can stay up to date with us here, on our website, and on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

A Whirlwind Week In Florida's Third Congressional District

After seven consecutive weeks in Washington, D.C., it feels great to be home! This week, I visited with constituents in Alachua, Marion, Hamilton, Levy, and Baker Counties, criss-crossing Florida's Third Congressional District and meeting some of the finest folks in the Sunshine State.

Volunteers with Americans for Prosperity Florida and the local chapters of the American Cancer Society visited to share their health priorities with me. I believe that our health care system is broken, but it will take a preventive approach from providers and patients to improve our quality of care. **I'm excited to share some new projects on this front in the coming months.**

In **Baker County**, I visited with Sheriff Scotty Rhoden, Baker Clerk of Court Stacie Harvey, the local fire department, World Honey Market, and several small organizations in Macclenny. I also stopped by Cedar Key in **Levy County** to check out the latest water projects on the Withlacoochee River in Yankeetown before heading to **Marion County** for a stint as a cashier at the RaceTrac location in Ocala. **You can see these visits below and stay tuned for more from our travels next week.**

The House is in recess again next week and I'll be back out in the district with many of you. I hope to see you soon, and wish you a happy, safe July 4th holiday with loved ones and friends.

With all that's happening this Congress, it is my greatest honor to represent you and hear from you about the issues that matter most. You can read below about what we've

FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



GENERAL MOODY WARNS ABOUT SWEEPSTAKES SCAMS ON NATIONAL LOTTERY DAY TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today is National Lottery Day, and Attorney

General Ashley Moody is releasing a Consumer Alert warning Floridians about sweepstakes scams. Lottery scams often begin when a scammer calls or sends messages to targets, often seniors, claiming the target won a prize. The scammer will then request service fees or financial information from the target stating that this is necessary for the winnings to be transferred.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Receiving a message that you have won a large cash prize can be exciting, but it's also likely a scam. If you receive one of these messages, be suspicious, do some research and never open any links included in the message. For more tips to avoid lottery scams, check out our latest Consumer Alert.” When scammers impersonate a credible lottery source and promise large winnings, targets could be fooled and may eagerly pay to receive a prize that will never be delivered. Targets are often asked to keep the winnings confidential helping scammers hide fraudulent efforts. For more information on the latest lottery scams, see the advisory recently released by Mega Millions.

To avoid lottery scams:

- Be aware that the Florida Lottery never contacts an individual regarding winnings in a game that the player never entered;
- Be cognizant that a legitimate

sweepstakes will not require winners to pay anything to receive a prize;

- Never provide banking or personal information over the phone to an unsolicited caller purporting that a fee is required to receive lottery winnings; and

- Know that winners will never be asked or required to keep prizes confidential.

To report a lottery or sweepstakes scam, contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint at MyFloridaLegal.com.

To report a fraudulent sweepstakes or lottery offer received by mail, contact the Postal Inspection Service online at USPIS.gov.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY WARNS DOJ AGAINST POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED INVESTIGATION OF FLORIDA'S IMMIGRANT RELOCATION PROGRAM

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning the U.S. Department of Justice against a politically-motivated investigation of Florida's immigrant relocation program. In a letter to the DOJ, Attorney General Moody states that there is no legal basis for California's request for the DOJ to investigate the program. Attorney General Moody's letter responds to a request by the California Governor and Attorney General to the DOJ to investigate Florida and defends the state's actions to transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities on a volunteer basis. The letter also points out that California's request is a political stunt and not a legal request, as California's letter does not identify any violation of federal statute, judicial decision or law.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “California's letter requesting that the U.S. Department of Justice investigate Florida is a ridiculous political stunt. Our voluntary immigration relocation program is lawful, and California's request fails to identify any violation of federal law. As an Attorney General who leads hundreds of highly-qualified lawyers and has led dozens of legal challenges against this administration, it is jarring that California is not competent enough to articulate even a minimal legal basis for its request. I thought California loved to tout its commitment to illegal immigrants, but now its governor does not want more immigrants in California, claiming that more of them could break his state—how ironic.”

Attorney General Moody is strongly urging the DOJ to not bail out California or engage in another political investigation. The letter states, “You have repeatedly stated that 'political or other improper considerations must play no role in any investigative or prosecutorial decisions.' Yet, the Democrat Governor and Attorney General of the State of California invite you to do exactly that in their letter to you dated July 6, 2023... While I would urge you not to bail out California or engage in another political investigation or litigation, if you make the unconscionable and unfounded determination to do so, Florida stands ready to fight against DOJ's overreach. Florida has had tremendous success litigating against DOJ under the Biden Administration and I and Florida's lawyers stand ready to depose, subpoena, and question Biden Administration officials in connection with such a proceeding... Another opportunity for litigation will only shine a brighter light on the Biden Administration's complete abdication of its responsibility as to immigration and the jeopardy in which it has placed our country and its citizens.”

Recalls

Continued from page 6

owners and custodians of model-year 2003 Ram 1500/2500/3500 pickups who have not replaced their recalled Takata air bags.

There are an estimated 29,000 unrepaired 2003 Ram pickups still on U.S. roads today and the vehicle's manufacturer, FCA US LLC, is urging the owners and custodians of these vehicles to immediately stop driving them and contact a local authorized dealer to determine their recall status.

A Solution

Free replacements for Takata air-bag inflators have been available for nearly 10 years and all costs are covered by the manufacturer. If your vehicle is affected by a Stop-Drive Advisory, you should call 833-585-0144 to discuss the best options for a free recall repair. FCA US can help arrange for your vehicle to be transported (free of charge) to an authorized dealership or schedule a mobile repair unit to come to your home. Once your vehicle is at a dealership or under the care of a mobile repair unit, your air bags can be replaced in about an hour.

Why It's Important

This is an urgent safety matter. These Takata air bags have been recalled because they contain chemical compounds that may deteriorate as they age—particularly if exposed to hot, humid climates. Such conditions may cause these inflators to rupture on air-bag deployment (even in minor crashes), scattering razor-sharp debris capable of causing serious injury or death to vehicle occupants. The Stop-Drive Advisory has been issued due to heightened risk for certain makes and model years. The 2003 Ram pickup joins four other FCA-brand vehicles subject to a Takata-related Stop-Drive Advisory. Last year, FCA US announced Stop-Drive Advisories for the Chrysler 300, and Dodge Magnum, Challenger and Charger vehicles from model years 2005-2010.

What You Can Do

Regardless of whether your vehicle has a Stop-Drive Advisory on it, it's not worth the risk for any vehicle to be on the road with an unrepaired air bag. If motorists are unsure if their vehicle has had its air bags recalled and would like to check, they are urged to call 833-585-0144, or enter their license plate number or Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) in the search engines atmopar.com/recalls (VIN only) or checktoprotect.org (license plate or VIN). The 17-character VIN is located on the driver's side dashboard near the windshield and can be found on insurance and registration documents.

Keep yourself and your loved ones safe this summer by checking your vehicle for open air-bag recalls and getting them repaired for free.

Lady Lake County Events

FOUR CORNERS 1ST SATURDAY FOODTRUCK

August 5, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Four Corners 1st Saturday Food Truck
Cagan Crossings
600 Cagan Oaks Dr, Clermont
Contact Sandy Farnsworth at 352-617-8788 or email sandyfcdp@gmail.com.
<https://www.EventsbySG.com>
Band, crafters, food trucks, bounce house, and more! Bring the family and join us for a fun evening.

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

August 5, 2023 @ 7:30 AM
Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey
Lake May Reserve
36300 County Road 44A, Eustis
Contact Gallus Quigley at 352-253-4950 or email parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov.
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>
Assist park staff with surveying the birds & butterflies of Lake County's conservation lands.

MEL FISHER EXHIBIT UNVEILING

August 6, 2023 @ 5:30 PM
Lake County Historical Society and Museum
317 W. Main St, Tavares
Contact Lake County Historical Museum at 352-343-9890 or email lakecounty1887@yahoo.com.

<https://lakecountyhistoricalmuseum.org/>

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

August 12, 2023 @ 7:30 AM
Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey
PEAR Park - WCA
4800 University Ave, Leesburg
Contact Gallus Quigley at 352-253-4950 or email gallus.quigley@lakecountyfl.gov.
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>
Assist park staff with surveying the birds & butterflies that inhabit Lake County's conservation lands.

EXPLORATION HIKE

August 13, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Exploration Hike
PEAR Park (Gateway)
26701 U. S. Highway 27, Leesburg
Contact Justin Pouliot at 352-516-7011 or email justin.pouliot@lakecountyfl.gov.
<http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks>
Join staff on an early evening adventure to explore the park while getting some exercise.

USED BOOK SALE

August 19, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Cagan Crossings Community Library
16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont
352-243-1840
<https://www.facebook.com/friends.of.cagan.crossings.library>

The Friends of Cagan Crossings Library invite you to their second book sale in 2023! Support your local library today - all proceeds go towards library funding, including programming for children. Cash only. A non-profit IRS 509(a)(2) public charity.

OPEN HOUSE AT ELLIS ACRES RESERVE

August 19, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
Open House at Ellis Acres Reserve
Ellis Acres Reserve
25302 County Road 42, Paisley
Contact Wendy Poag at 352-516-7456 or email wendy.poag@lakecountyfl.gov.
<http://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks>
Nature Center will be open with a naturalist on site to answer questions.

STAR WARS DAY HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

August 26, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
Star Wars Day hosted by Friends of the Library
Cagan Crossings Community Library
16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont
352-243-1840
<https://www.facebook.com/friends.of.cagan.crossings.library>
Star Wars Day at the Cagan Crossings Community Library Join us on Saturday, August 26, 2023 as troops from the 501st Legion-Florida Garrison will be landing at Cagan Library for a day of Star Wars-related fun and activities for all ages.



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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



More Than 11,000 Florida Teachers Receive Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement
Each educator earning a Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement receives a stipend worth \$3,000 each

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis announced Florida has awarded 11,000 teachers more than \$33 million for completing civics training offered by the Florida Department of Education. The educators have completed either the Summer Civics Professional Learning Series or the first-of-its-kind Civics Seal of Excellence Endorsement, which equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to provide high-quality civics instruction.

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) launched the Civics Seal of Excellence in January, and more than 10,000 teachers registered for the course within the first week. Course enrollment is at capacity with 20,000 teachers enrolled and an additional 11,000 educators on the waiting list. FDOE enlisted the assistance of nationally recognized civics experts to create the 50-hour online program that contains over 28 hours of high-quality video lessons focused on America's history, civics, and government.

“Understanding the founding principles of our nation is the key to protecting and maintaining our republic for generations to come,” **said Governor Ron DeSantis.** “Florida teachers are leading the way in civics education, which is demonstrated by our student success, especially when compared to the rest of the nation. Congratulations to our educators who have taken advantage of Florida's unique civics professional learning opportunities.”

“Through state leadership and the commitment of thousands of educators, Florida has provided students unprecedented civics education,” **said Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr.** “Thank you to Governor DeSantis for distributing \$33 million to teachers who have completed civics training to better prepare their students to become civically

engaged and honor their responsibilities as American citizens.”

“The Civics Seal of Excellence course should be a model for the entire nation,” **said Kelley Mathews, Social Studies Teacher at Fort White High School in Columbia County.** “The text assignments and materials are extremely valuable in making connections between historical context and modern day applications. I teach U.S. Government, Economics, African American History, Law Studies, and Florida History, and this course will benefit each and every one of these classes.”

Since taking office, Governor DeSantis has prioritized civics education. In 2020, Governor DeSantis established the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI), the first statewide program of its kind focused on using debate as a tool to enrich civics education. Schools that participate in the FCDI have demonstrated higher pass rates on both the Civics and U.S. History End-of-Course Exams than schools without an FCDI team. The application form for schools to join the FCDI for the 2023–2024 school year is available at: [Florida Civics and Debate Initiative Participation Request SY23–24](#).

The Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative was created in July 2021 to continue elevating civic literacy and education for Florida's students. Efforts within the Civics Literacy Excellence Initiative include the Civics Seal of Excellence, professional learning aligned to the revised civics and government standards, the Portraits in Patriotism oral history resources, Stories of Inspiration, and Civics Academies.

Governor Ron DeSantis Awards More Than \$247 Million Through the Broadband Infrastructure Program

Connecting more than 59,000 Unserved and Underserved Businesses, Homes, Farms and Anchor Institutions Like Hospitals and Libraries to High-Speed Internet

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis awarded more than \$247 million through the Broadband Infrastructure Program, connecting more than 59,000 unserved and underserved businesses, homes, farms and anchor institutions like hospitals and libraries to high-speed Internet. Infrastructure deployment through

63 strategic projects in 43 Florida counties ensures that Florida residents have reliable and efficient access to workforce, education and health monitoring opportunities for generations to come.

These awards are in addition to more than \$226 million in Broadband Opportunity Grant Funding already awarded to 53 counties awards to expand broadband Internet access to unserved areas across the state, connecting more than 250,000 homes and businesses. Additional funding will become available this year through new and existing programs.

Marion County – (\$4,779,127) to add 88 miles of fiber optic cable to provide 935 unserved locations within Marion and Putnam counties with symmetrical download and upload speeds of 1GB.

Unincorporated area of Silver Springs Shores and the unincorporated community of Ocklawaha – (\$15,841,522) to add 231 miles of fiber optic cable to provide 3,296 unserved locations within Marion and Lake counties with symmetrical download and upload speeds of 1GB.

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