



Total Quantum Healing celebrated its Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting celebration. They are located inside Perhealth Chiropractic in Mulberry Plaza The

Villages. They offer a holistic approach to traditional medicine. Curious about what's happening inside your body & mind? Schedule a scan today!



Jena Sullivan of Edward Jones was recently installed on the Board of Directors for the Lady Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. President, Jeanne Lazo is pictured handing her the lanyard all board members receive. Jena will be filling a seat on the board after a recent vacancy.

Where is the Social Security Fund?

Where is the Social Security Fund we have been paying into all our lives?

Information from the net!

Social Security is financed through a dedicated Payroll Tax.

Employers and employees each pay 6.2 percent of wages up to the taxable maximum of \$160,200 (in 2023), while the self-employed pay 12.4 percent. The payroll tax rates are set by law, and for OASI and DI, apply to earnings up to a certain amount.

In listening to the financial news a comment was made about "China is our largest debtor". Not true the largest debtor is our own Social Security Fund! Politicians can't stand the fact the Social Security Fund had money in it. So they have been using the money for things other than the aging. Actually they are budgeting in advance for other things not related to the elderly before they have it in hand.

Social insurance, as conceived by President Roosevelt, he would address the permanent problem of economic security for the elderly by creating a work-related, contributory system in which workers would provide for their own future economic security through taxes paid while employed. Thus it was an alternative both to reliance on welfare and to radical changes in

our capitalist system. In the context of its time, it can be seen as a moderately conservative, yet activist, response to the challenges of the Depression.

One of the first American books on social insurance was by a Columbia University economics professor named Henry Seager. he explained the principle of old-age security based on social insurance in his 1910 book, "Social Insurance, A Program of Social Reform". But they are not using it all for the aging. Today and last years they are sending checks to people who now don't want to work. If they don't work they don't pay into Social Security and that is a drag on the fund. "As changing economic conditions are rendering the dependence of old people on their descendants for support increasingly precarious, new obstacles are arising to providing for old age through voluntary saving. . . The proper method of safeguarding old age is clearly through some plan of insurance. . . for every wage earner to attempt to save enough by himself to provide for his old age is needlessly costly. The intelligent course is for him to combine with other wage earners to accumulate a common fund out of which old-age annuities may be paid to those who

Continued page 2

STEVEN W. HUNT



Community Connections

by Chief Steve Hunt

Speeders, speeders, speeders.

The number one complaint received from citizens to the police department is drivers speeding

in their neighborhood. I can assure you it is no different throughout the country whether it be Bangor, Maine or Lady Lake, Florida. I also share in the same frustration. I routinely find myself loudly expressing my disappointment with folks "flying" by my own home at least once every weekend while I am mowing the lawn or doing an outside project. Everyone seems to be in such a hurry these days. Everyone needs to push that yellow light before it turns red. Everyone is so easily offended about even the slightest traffic grievance as though one was being called out to participate in a duel. There was a day if you mistakenly cut someone off, they would give a "salute", now folks are waving guns around. John Lennon would say, "strange days indeed".

Now the question is how we, the Lady Lake Police Department, respond to these complaints. Well, I know some of you might

say, "not very well." In a time with many demands for police service it is difficult at best to provide coverage that makes everyone happy. We try to assess where we place resources in the most efficient manner possible. We take into consideration the actual speed zone, accident history, pedestrian and children traffic. We also realize we now have many unintended "cross through" streets that have been increasingly problematic. Quality of life considerations also come into play. Increased loud traffic through what would be a normally quiet neighborhood becomes a real distraction for residents. We understand and hear your concerns. I, too, get angered by the Richard Petty wannabes going by my house.

I appreciate your emails and phone calls, and I can even live with the ones that get a little spicy. But please remember, sometimes we know your street is a problem - think Rio Grande, Chula Vista, W. McClendon - and sometimes we don't. Sometimes all we need is a friendly call that a situation is escalating. Those are the kinds of reminders that help us find a solution together. "Hey, they are flying over here again. Can you all give it some attention"?

Once a problem is identified, we place the area on a special patrol list and give the officers direction on where to concentrate their efforts during their shifts. The supervisor may lead the squad in a problem

area. We have a few digital speed signs that appear to help, and we are in the process purchasing a few more. These units can also provide some data to assist us with manpower allocation. I am hopeful that we will soon return to full staff and be able to bring back our Special Enforcement Team in order to attack the problem areas more aggressively.

We are here, we want to be part of the solution to make this community the best place to live, work, and play. We will do our part to help in what sometimes can appear to be a world gone crazy. Remember: "Love is all we need" - and maybe a little bit of patience and grace.

In the case an emergency, do not hesitate to call 911. For all other issues you think we should be aware of, please call the Lady Lake Police Non-Emergency number at 352-343-2101.

Social Security

Continued from page 1

live long enough to need it." I ask you??? In other words they are using the money to support the Illegals. If you die before retirement age the Government consumes it, but they owe it to you! I say all these people that died of COVID were elderly. Where is all that money going that they don't have to pay any more?

How Much Money Has Congress taken from Social Security? Feb 4, 2019 · Because of Congress' borrowing they had to allow Social Security to collect \$85.1 billion in

interest income for 2017, and it's expected to provide \$804 billion in aggregate interest income.

Congress, is the keepers of our financial retirement fund, have been using Social Security taxes to fund other parts of the government because, well the money is there, or it will be.

Technically the government owes the Social Security fund an estimated \$2.9 trillion, money that has been used and not repaid to the fund. So when you see that debt analyzer that is clicking off interest on TV, that's Social Security interest also, our money.

Actually, the Social Security program has become much like a State Lottery it depends on people playing.

School Supplies for Fines

As part of its "School Supplies for Fines" program, the Lady Lake Library donated over 100 pounds of backpacks, notebooks, pencils and more to The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake. In exchange for donations from the community, nearly \$500 in library fines were forgiven. This program, held for the first time this year, is a great way for patrons to pay off fines while giving back to the community.

"The 'School Supplies for Fines' program not only helps our library patrons manage their outstanding fines, but also provides

Continued page 4

NO NEED TO GO OUT ON A LIMB... ADVERTISING WORKS!

Ocala Downtown
Seniors Voice of Ocala
Village Spectator
Lady Lake Magazine

Call/Email Tom: 352-804-1223 • tloury@att.net



Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
As we prepare for the next legislative session, allow us to take the time to remind you to stay prepared during hurricane season. Stretching from June 1st to November 30th, we still have three long months until we're in the clear. During last session, the Florida Legislature passed two separate two-week Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holidays to help Florida citizens prepare for the coming stormy weather. The first sales tax holiday was between May 27th and June 9th. Don't worry, if you forgot to take advantage of the first Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday, there is another one from August 26th to September 8th. Hurricane season is well underway but there's still time to stock up on all the supplies you'll need!

Despite the rainy season, our summer has been full of exciting and memorable events that are well worth sharing with the constituents of Senate District 13. Firstly, any Christian elected official or anyone supporting Christians serving in elected office were afforded the opportunity to attend the National Association of Christian Lawmakers Conference in Lynchburg, Virginia. NACL is an incredible platform that allows Christian lawmakers from all over the U.S. to come together and work as a team to ensure that faith, family, freedom, opportunity, and life are at the forefront of our nation. Also, members of the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice were so graciously invited to tour the Sumter Correctional Institute, Ocala Center for Success and Independence, the Marion Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and the Arnette House (CINS/FINS Shelter). All of these facilities provide various opportunities for Florida citizens to get back on their feet and on the right path. Sumter CI has partnered with Pride Enterprises, which is a self-funded enterprise whose mission makes a positive

difference in Florida by training eligible inmates in vocational skills and transitioning them into the job market upon completion of their sentences. The Ocala Center for Success and Independence serves males, between the ages of 15 and 18 years of age who are adjudicated to the Department after being assessed and referred as appropriate for non-secure placement and are in need of Mental Health Overlay Services and/or Substance Abuse Treatment Overlay Services. The Marion Regional Juvenile Detention Center provides supervision of youth in a safe, secure and humane environment. Services for youth include: education, mental health, substance abuse, and health care. Lastly, the Arnette House provides programs and services to the 5th circuit which includes Marion, Lake, Sumter, Citrus, and Hernando Counties by caring and dedicated professionals who focus on the strengths of the family while providing skills and knowledge to help improve life at home. Touring these facilities equipped us with an even more profound understanding of the importance of faith, family, freedom, opportunity, and life.

As we sail through the last few months of summer and prepare for the next legislative session, I hope this letter encourages you to support your community and reminds you, not only to be prepared for the end of hurricane season, but to continue to have an active part in your government. Nothing significant is ever done alone, but one person can make a difference!

Thank you for letting me serve you in the Florida Senate.

Onward & Upward
Senator Dennis Baxley



Lake County Events

DINING WITH DIABETES

September 5, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Eustis Women's Club
227 North Center Street, Eustis
\$40

Contact Lori Johnson at 352-343-4101 or email lorijohnson@ufl.edu.
<https://eustis.recdesk.com/Community/Program>

Led by Lori Johnson, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent Location: Eustis Women's Club 227 North Center Street, Eustis Cost: \$40 per person, space is limited This is a 4 week series with hands-on-cooking Class Dates are September 5, 19, 28 and Oct 3rd

LET'S WALK FLORIDA

September 5, 2023 @ 8:00 AM
\$30
Contact Lori Johnson at 352-343-4101 or email lorijohnson@ufl.edu.
6 week virtual physical activity education program. Sept. 5 through Oct. 15. Participants will be provided e-guides and asked to submit physical activity minutes

weekly. Each participant will receive a smart watch to track steps.

LAKE COUNTY LADIES CHORUS

September 7, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
GraceWay Church
10200 Morningside Drive, Leesburg, FL, Leesburg
Contact Marie at 407-257-5529 or email Jan2018me@comcast.net.

Do you love to sing and bring joy to others? Then come see what we are all about. There is no obligation to join, but you just might find a new hobby that you enjoy. We rehearse Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30, with seasonal local performances.

MOUNT DORA ART IN THE ALLEY

September 8, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Royellou Lane
430 Royellou, Mt Dora, FL 32757, Mount Dora
Contact Janet Gamache at 352-217-8390 or email janet.gamache@gmail.com.
<https://moundoraart.com/art-in-the-alley/>

Support local, emerging artists with your purchases every 2nd Friday of the month at Mount Dora's Art in the Alley from 6-9pm. Who knows? You might discover the next Van Gogh. Held on Royellou Ln alley between 3rd and 5th Ave.

LAUGH OUT LOUD COMEDY SHOW 8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

September 9, 2023 @ 4:00 PM
Ferran Park
250 Ferran Park Dr, Eustis, FL 32726, Eustis
Contact Darius Kerrison at 352-602-0258 or email gseries808@gmail.com.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/laugh-out-loud-8-year-anniversary-comedy-show-tickets-695993363887?aff=oddtcreator>
Join us for a hilarious evening as House of Laughter brings to you the LOL COMEDY SHOW held in the beautiful city of Eustis held in historic Ferran Park. Starts at 4pm & ends 8pm also bring the kids we will have plenty games, bounce house and more.

BEGINNER'S PADDLING

September 9, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
Hickory Point Recreational Facility
27341 State Road 19, Tavares
Contact Mary Koch at 352-324-6141 or email mkoch@lcwa.org.
<http://lcwa.org>

The public is invited to learn about the popular sport of paddling with experienced staff. Novice paddlers will learn about paddling basics and safety and then practice what they have learned in a well supervised paddling adventure.

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

September 9, 2023 @ 7:30 AM
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

September 10, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
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.

ETHNOBOTANY

September 14, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
Ellis Acres Reserve
25302 County Road 42, Paisley
Contact Linda Richardson at 352-267-2235 or email linda.richardson@lakecountyfl.gov.
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks>
Perfect for homeschool adventures! Join staff as we explore the roles that plants have played in the lives of peoples through time.

CLERMONT MAIN STREET WINE STROLL

September 15, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Downtown Clermont
685 W. Montrose Street, Clermont
\$25
Contact Clermont Main Street Executive Director at 352-989-0835 or email

director@clermontdowntown.com.
<https://clermontdowntown.com/>
Explore historic Downtown Clermont while sampling more than 20 wines at participating locations. See website for more details.

RON FEINGOLD COMEDY SERIES - PHILLY PLOWDEN

September 16, 2023 @ 8:00 PM
Clermont Performing Arts Center
3700 S. Highway 27, Clermont
\$25 - General Admission
Contact Box Office at 352-394-4800 or email clermontpac@clermontfl.org.
<https://clermontperformingarts.com/philly-plowden/>
Philly Plowden is one of the most sound actors/comedians/emcees working today. The essence of Philly has been described as "deep as a well and dark as a cave." His commercial work includes being the spokesperson for Sweetbay Supermarkets chain, Cash America Pawn Shops, and Home Depot. Theatrical credits include NCIS New Orleans, Valor, and Fatal Attraction, among others. As a comic, he travels throughout the United States and parts of the world performing his standup show to great reviews! He has also appeared on season three of NBC's America's Got Talent. Taking a journey with Philly is an experience!

THE SECRET GARDEN 11TH ANNUAL PURSES OF PURPOSE LADIES' TEA AND PURSE AUCTION

September 16, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
LifePointe Church Eustis SBC
3551 E. Orange Avenue, Eustis, FL 32736, Eustis
\$50.00
Contact Allison Long at 352-638-0222 or email events@grit4u.com.
<http://www.handinhandrecovery.org/events>
Ladies Tea to benefit Hand in Hand Non-Profit Drug Addiction Recovery Program

QUARTERLY BIRD & BUTTERFLY SURVEY

September 23, 2023 @ 7:30 AM
Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail & Trailhead
26656 County Road 46A, Sorrento
Contact Gallus Quigley at 352-253-4950 or email parksandtrails@lakecountyfl.gov.
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/parks-and-trails>
Assist park staff in surveying the birds & butterflies that inhabit Lake County's conservation lands

OPEN HOUSE AT ELLIS ACRES RESERVE

September 23, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
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.

More events at
<https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/calendar>

SEND US YOUR



TLoury@att.net

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



One persons opinion! "MINE"

Starting out with this column is hard to decide what to start with. But here we go "BIDEN LIED?" no matter what is said from this time forward I will not believe anything he says, thats my opinion! They can spin it anyway they want, he is **not** telling the truth. He and his son both need to be impeached and or prosecuted. They need to be fined for every cent they stole and put it into the United States Treasury fund to repair foreign affairs. I ask you if you were from another country and was promised preferential treatment after paying millions of dollars for it! What would you do? It's a perfect storm, they can't admit to paying bribery money.

No wonder these foreign countries are so mad at us. Promises made promises broken! Apparently they paid a lot of money to the Biden's.

Conflict of Interest?AOC receives a

salary of \$174,000 and she still owes \$50,000 in student debt!

When Bidens Social spending proposal was a staggering \$1.75 trillion she want him to put pressure on Student debt forgiveness.

More interesting late braking news release...People say solar panels don't produce carbon emissions, but they do. And now, a major new investigation by Environmental Progress, drawing on the research of @enricomariutti, finds that solar panels made in China produce at least 6x more carbon emissions than IPCC claims.

Some years back I wrote a story about Anthony Facci and the fact that he was funneling money through a company to fund research at the Wohan Lab during the Obama era. No one would agree with me, actually I got scolded by some people saying I should be ashamed of myself. Well now shame on you! Are you not curious why these young athletes are having their hearts stop while playing sports. In the early stages

of the COVID shots a doctor said they were manipulating the electrical system in your body. I have heard a lot about the Heart Specialist trying to treat a heart patient in this electrical system we have in our bodies. I also have noticed people with pacemakers have to keep going back to get their pacemaker adjusted.

Now a secret Lab is discovered in California that is probably a planted so the left can claim the leak was from that Lab here in our own country. They will leak that information to the lefts media, they will jump on it. Where is the Governor of that state? What he doing? Why are we letting him do it? America wake up! Some of these states are headed toward ruin and already lawless.

Justice Delayed is Justice denied!

Lawyers??? I would like to bring to light of innocent people that are found guilty. I will attempt to tell several short stories.

First some young people having a bon fire. Two boys argued one got in his pickup truck and spun out and threw rocks all over the two boys standing there. The two boys that had rocks flying at them gave chase and one boy threw a coke can at the fleeing. The can hit the truck. Now the boy who threw the coke can is a convicted Felon.

Second story man and wife are divorcing were in a nasty turmoil, wife accuses husband of doing things to her daughter, to get daughter released in her name. An examination did not show anything to prove it. The father says I out of money. Lawyer says claim no contest. He is now a convicted Child Molester.

Lady ask on attorney to represent her in a workman's Comp case.

The lawyer got his money and started. During the investigation it was found out that the school system said to the workman Comp office get her off workman comp at all cost. Workman's Comp told the surgeon release her for work. The lady leg split long ways up into the knee joint. Ten days the surgeon released her to go to work. She was with a full time nurse crying every hour in pain. She called in sick using all the sick

days she had accumulated so she would not get fired. Later during a settlement discussion her lawyer said you must settle now because I can't represent you any more on workman Comp money. You can image what happened next. The school system won.

I could go on and on. There are plenty of examples. Many people's lives ruined and the lawyer made their money. There are judges that are close friends with attorneys. Who is suppose to be monitoring this? There should be a government agency that will look at these cases for people that were innocent.

Not all attorneys are that way but enough that would make a difference in people lives. We need and independent council looking into some of these cases and the attorneys won't walk away from the case without finishing it right.

A couple weeks ago, FAIRtax Power Radio reported on an IRS raided a gun store owner was met by armed agents who confiscated thousands of names and addresses of people who had bought firearms at the store. I ask is that legal? You people out there that bought a gun at that store...Expect a visit! Probably not legal and there probably will be blood shed.

School Supplies

Continued from page 2

valuable resources for students who might not have access to necessary school supplies," said Lady Lake Library Director Aly Herman. "The community impact of such a program is undoubtedly significant."

The Town of Lady Lake plans to make this program an annual event.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for October

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, September 15th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, September 20th

Village Spectator / Lady Lake Magazine

Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

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

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**PLEASE
SUPPORT
THE WOUNDED
WARRIORS!**



**God Bless our Troops
Support Our Veterans
We Endorse The Constitution**

Reverse Mortgage Explained

September 12, 12:30pm

The Standard Coffee Lounge, 1552 Bella Cruz, The Villages

Register: 239-990-7132 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**



FAIRTax



Flat Tax or FAIRtax? Although the Flat Tax and the FAIRtax share some important similarities they also

have many important differences. They are both flat rate taxes that are neutral with respect to savings and investments. However, the flat tax retains the invasive income tax administration apparatus (known as the IRS) and can easily revert to a graduated, convoluted mess as it has many times in the past. Few people truly understand the flat tax. It's authors will tell you it is a consumption tax that uses the income tax system for implementation. Any politician that claims the flat tax will eliminate the IRS is not telling the truth. Only a government bureaucrat could come up with the idea of a consumption tax being regulated by the IRS when you can simply have a retail sales tax (the FAIRtax) that reduces the bureaucracy by 90% or more. In addition, a large part of the tax burden of the flat tax (the business tax) remains hidden in the price of goods and services. The FAIRtax eliminates that hidden cost. Individuals would still need to file income

tax returns under the flat tax and, while the form may be simplified, it still requires burdensome record keeping. Under the FAIRtax, individuals never file a tax return. When you pay at the cash register, your tax obligation is over. Under the flat tax, the payroll taxes, which are the most regressive of taxes on the working family, would be retained. Under the FAIRtax, the payroll taxes are repealed and you bring home a paycheck with no federal withholding. Congress has tried many times over the years to reform the income tax with the results being a tax code that is so complex, so convoluted and so large that no one is able to understand it completely allowing for greater evasion, fraud and abuse. The problem is the income tax itself and we need to stop tinkering with it and eliminate it completely. Contrast this with the FAIRtax which is simple, easy to understand and visible. It cannot be converted to an income tax. It's time to do away with the income tax and start over with a tax system more appropriate to a free society. It's time for the FAIRtax. For more information go to FAIRtax.org.

Employment Opportunities

Employment Opportunities Available for Job Seekers at the Lady Lake Pop-Up Job Fair

LADY LAKE - Job seekers in Lady Lake and neighboring areas looking for a fresh start, better job prospects, or a new career direction need look no further. The Town of Lady Lake is hosting the Lady Lake Pop-Up Job Fair, an event designed to connect talented workers with exciting new opportunities.

The job fair will take place on Friday, Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. at the Lady Lake Public Library, located at 225 W. Guava St., Lady Lake.

The town's goal is to recruit, develop, and retain a high performing and diverse workforce. At this time, Lady Lake is hiring the following positions:

- Police Officer
- Reserve Police Officer
- Staff Assistant to the Police Department (Part-Time)
- Utilities Technician II
- Public Works Operator II - Streets and Facilities
- Mechanic

This event is an excellent platform for serious job seekers to interact with representatives from Lady Lake, as well as numerous local entities and organizations. Job seekers should be prepared to complete

applications on-site and engage in direct conversations with hiring managers eager to fill vacancies. The job fair offers a unique chance to meet employers face-to-face, expand professional networks, gain industry exposure, and boost confidence in the job search. Participating organizations include the Town of Lady Lake, Lady Lake Police Department, City of Leesburg, CareerSource Central Florida, Lake County Transit, Lake Correctional Institution, Lake County Schools, The Village Center Community Development District, The Villages Community Watch, The Villages Health, and Mission BBQ.

The event is free to attend. For more information, contact Julia Harris at jharris@ladylake.org or call 352-751-1545. To learn more about employment opportunities, visit [Human Resources](https://www.humanresources.com).

Budget Public Hearing Dates

Lady Lake Announces Budget Public Hearing Dates

LADY LAKE - The Town of Lady Lake is announcing Budget Public Hearing dates for Fiscal Year 2023/24. The hearings to set the millage and adopt the budget are scheduled at the Town Commission Chambers, 409 Fennell Blvd., for the following dates:

Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. (First public
Continued page 6

Florida's Barefoot Artist Guy LaBree



Guy LaBree (The Barefoot Artist)
By TomL

There are many well known artist that have attempted to capture the culture, religion histories and day to day atmosphere of the Seminole Indians, but failed to do so. A boy hood friend did. We spent some fun times together. One day while we were going snake and alligator watching I hid my new bike in the bushes and when we came back it was gone. Back in those days we called him Harry. His name is Harry Guy LaBree.

Harry was a very unique person he went every where barefoot, They had a heck of a time getting shoes on him to go to school, when he went to school. He connected with the Seminole Indians that were in our school at an early age and after growing up he actually live with them for a short time. The Seminole Indians went to school in Dania and as population grew they went to a

different school, thats when I lost tract of Harry and saw him and spoke to him on several occasions over the years. Last contact was on the phone was just before he passed away, he lived in arcadia Florida near or in what was describe to me was really rural. His is missed and I will always remmedber him. I was a bless person to experience a small part of his life.

Liver Disease And Your Life



(NAPSI)—You may be at risk for liver disease and not even know it. Consider this: Fatty liver disease affects an estimated 80 to 100 million Americans and many are completely unaware they have it. Fortunately, you don't have to be among them.

Take the Liver Health Quiz

Through a simple liver health quiz, available at ThinkLiverThinkLife.org, it is easy to find out if you're at risk and learn what to do next. Those who are most at risk for fatty liver disease include:

- People with type 2 diabetes
- People who are obese or have a high BMI
- People in Asian and Hispanic communities

What To Know

Fatty liver disease is one of the most common causes of liver disease in the U.S. and the most common cause of liver disease worldwide, affecting one billion people. It is the most common form of liver disease in children in the U.S. and cases have more than doubled over the last 20 years.

Causing excess fat to build up in the liver, fatty liver disease has little to no symptoms. Its exact causes are unknown but continued research indicates genetics, digestive disorders and diet can all play a role.

Research also indicates that fatty liver disease is not caused by heavy alcohol use (alcohol-associated liver disease). Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) is an

advanced form of fatty liver disease causing inflammation and liver damage, which can lead to liver failure and the need for liver transplant.

A Look at Your Liver

A healthy liver is essential to your overall health and wellness, and performs many necessary functions such as:

- Filtering toxins from your blood
- Making bile to help with digestion
- Storing sugar for energy
- Making protein for blood plasma

Additionally, the liver is the only solid organ in your body that can regenerate or repair itself, so getting an early diagnosis is critical. Often, liver patients can reverse liver damage or slow disease progression with a few small changes to their daily lifestyle.

Minimizing Your Risk

Everything you eat, breathe and touch is processed through your liver, therefore ensuring good liver health is critical. You can take steps to minimize your risk of fatty liver disease by following these simple tips:

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Eat a healthy diet
- Exercise regularly
- Limit alcohol intake
- Take medications only as prescribed

In October, which is National Liver Awareness Month, the American Liver Foundation (ALF) encourages everyone to find out if they are at risk for fatty liver disease through its national public awareness campaign, Think Liver Think Life™.

About ALF

ALF is dedicated to ensuring every American understands their risk for liver disease, receives the appropriate diagnostic testing and care coordination and feels well-informed and supported throughout their liver journey. By partnering with community health centers and state departments of health, ALF offers screenings for those most at risk for fatty liver disease and provides them with connections to follow-up care when appropriate.

Getting a diagnosis early is critical for having a chance to reverse course before liver disease progresses. You can find out if you're at risk by taking ALF's liver health quiz

www.ThinkLiverThinkLife.org

Budget Hearing

Continued from page 5 hearing)

Monday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. (Second public hearing and adoption)

During the July 26 Town Commission workshop, the Commission recommended a general fund budget based on the millage rate of 3.3962 mills, the same rate as in FY 2022/2023. This millage rate is the second lowest in Lake County. (A mill is one tenth of a percent, which equates to \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 in home value.) The proposed tentative millage rate can be increased or decreased on Sept. 6, however on Sept. 18 at the final public hearing, the tentative millage rate can only be accepted or decreased, but not increased.

The Town's budget consists of the General Fund, Special Revenue and Utilities Fund and reflects projections of expected revenue and expenses for the upcoming fiscal year, which is Oct. 1, 2023, through Sept. 30, 2024. The General Fund covers operations including public safety services such as the Villages Fire Assessment and the Lady Lake Police Department, as well as personnel costs, elections, and the library/government complex expansion, to name a few.

"This budget reflects hours of cooperative work by department heads and staff to provide services that the Town of Lady Lake residents expect," said Pam Winegardner, Town Finance Director. "Town staff will continue to work with the town's elected officials and residents to maintain and improve the quality of life enjoyed by all town residents through improved services and cost-effective programs and projects."

For work on its budget, the Town of Lady Lake has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada every year since 1995. For more information, visit LadyLake.org.



Rotary Club of The Villages
NOON
SEPT. 16, 2023
7:30 AM Registration
8:30 AM SHOTGUN
3rd Annual Charity Golf SCRAMBLE
TEAM & INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION
How can you get involved?
Sign Up and Golf, Donations for Silent Auction, Be a Sponsor
For more information call ANDY: 503-956-8533
or Email: RCTVN62612@gmail.com

PROCEEDS for VARIOUS LOCAL CHARITIES
WILDWOOD INTERACT SCHOLARSHIPS
DEADLINE: Sept. 11

Bringing our community together...
Call/Email Tom:
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tloury@att.net

Ocala Downtown Seniors Voice of Ocala Village Spectator Lady Lake Magazine

Art of Aging

Art of Aging is an annual collaborative partnership of Marion Senior Services and MCA that celebrates aging through art, stories, and education.

Marion Senior Services, participating artists, La Casella Catering, all the sponsors, and attendees made the Art of Aging opening reception a success. Art of Aging: The Golden Age artwork was from artists that know about the Art of Aging. Be sure to stop by during gallery hours to see exhibits from local artists. Marion Cultural Alliance gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm. Location: 23 SW Broadway St Ocala, FL

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



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Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon

Welcome to the August Lady Lake area. This last month some 50 Chamber Business Luncheon, Most Business People attended meeting months there is a business other business people and sharing Luncheon held in a restaurant in the information. After all you can refer

someone if you don't know what they do. Good program put on by the Lady Lake Chamber. It was well organized and ran smooth, lot's of door prizes. Next month the meeting will be held at Eaton's Beach Restaurant on the third Thursday of the month.



Lady Lake Chamber Business Luncheon



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!




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then click on
back-issues





**LADY LAKE
ANIMAL
CONTROL**


POLICE

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

Special thanks to Lady Lake Magazine

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Governor Celebrates Record Number of Students

~ Scholarships provide high-quality options for thousands of Florida students ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that nearly 430,000 applications have been received from students for a scholarship under the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and the Family Empowerment Scholarship. Out of the historic number of applications, over 407,000 students have already been awarded a scholarship with more applications moving through the approval process. This year, Governor DeSantis signed House Bill 1 which expanded school choice for Florida students and families, allowing more families to choose the educational setting that best fits their child's needs. Today's participation numbers represent a monumental increase over last year's enrollment of nearly 250,000 students in the scholarship programs.

"With our historic move to universal school choice, families in record numbers are choosing the best educational options for their children," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "I am proud of the work we have done so far, but we're far from done—we will continue to empower parents and expand opportunities so that our students receive the best possible education."

historic expansion of school choice scholarships will allow students to have the best chance of academic success," said **Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr.** "Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida is a national model for school choice, and I am proud our parents have the opportunity to choose life-

changing educational options that foster student success."

"House Bill 1 unlocks School Choice for every student in Florida," said **Speaker of the House Paul Renner**. "Thanks to Governor DeSantis' signature and commitment to empowering parents, Florida has the largest expansion of School Choice in the nation, allowing every student, regardless of race, income, background, or zip code to customize their education to fit their unique needs."

"With this historic legislation, every student has the opportunity to receive an education in an environment that allows them to thrive," said **Senate President Kathleen Passidomo**. "I am delighted to see the successful implementation of this legislation, and I look forward to witnessing the impact these new opportunities will have on our students. Innovative policies like this are why Florida remains the gold standard for education across the nation."

The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship and the Family Empowerment Scholarship provide funds for tuition and fees at a participating private school, as well as curriculum and related materials and other contracted services, or transportation to a Florida public school other than the student's assigned school. The programs are available through scholarship funding organizations approved by the Florida Department of Education. The Florida Department of Education will continue to provide support to approved scholarship funding organizations in processing the record number of scholarship applications.

Global Spotlight: Costa Rica



Costa Rica went its own way: without an army, but with investments in education and health, a sustainable economy and an open society, Costa Rica became a model state in Latin America.

Costa Rica is one of the most prosperous, peaceful and sustainable countries in Latin America. Although the Central American country is located in one of the most insecure and unstable regions of the world, the small country has managed to protect its peace and democracy. At the same time, the Ticos (the common name for people from Costa Rica) have made it prosperous. The country has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. All this despite the fact that before independence, Costa Rica was one of the most insignificant and underdeveloped parts of the Spanish colonial empire.

But how did the small Central American country manage to develop so much? And what can other countries learn from Costa Rica? Here are three of the most important

points.

Schoolbooks instead of Firearms

Costa Rica won its independence without violence in 1821. However, the country was not spared conflicts thereafter. Repeated wars and civil wars broke out. For example, the American William Walker tried to conquer all of Central America and establish a slave state there under the influence of the USA. Under the leadership of Costa Rica, however, the states of Central America were able to defeat William Walker.

The turnaround came with Costa Rica's last civil war in 1948. At the end of the war, the army was abolished and since then Costa Rica has lived in unarmed neutrality. This makes Costa Rica one of the few countries in the world without an army.

Instead of spending money on weapons, Costa Rica invested in education and the health system. The result is impressive: Today, the Ticos have the highest life expectancy in Latin America and even do

Continued on page 13



1410 AM & 95.1 FM

"The Voice Of Lake County"

www.WQBQ1410.com

FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



**Congresswoman
Kat Cammack
Announces Lake
City As Recipient Of
DHS, FEMA's
'Assistance To
Firefighters' Grant
GAINESVILLE, FL**

— Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) announced the Lake City Fire Department's 'Assistance To Firefighters' Grant (AFG) award from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The department will receive \$208,261.90 to improve its operations and safety, including using the grant for new protective equipment such as air packs.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is one of three grant programs administered by DHS and FEMA to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and related hazards.

"I'm so excited for our brave men and women in Lake City to have the equipment necessary to help them do their jobs more safely and effectively. Our first responders are heroes and it's imperative that we ensure they stay safe while serving our communities," said Congresswoman Cammack. "I couldn't be prouder of our firefighters in Lake City. As the wife of a firefighter and paramedic myself, I know how deserving our departments are of this grant and I know they'll continue to demonstrate the very best of our first responder community in North Central Florida."

"Lake City Fire Department is very excited to receive the AFG award this year to replace our outdated air packs. As a smaller department we are constantly seeking grants to supplement our budget," said Lake City Fire Chief/Fire Inspector

Joshua Wehinger. "This grant will allow us to replace our aging air packs and ensure that we are creating a safe working environment for our firefighters. The support we have received from Congresswoman Cammack has been above any expectations. We are thankful for her support of all first responders. She has made herself very accessible and for that we are thankful."

In June, Congresswoman Cammack announced Gainesville Fire Rescue's award of \$47,122 and Alachua County Fire Rescue's \$570,954 to improve their operations and safety.

In FY 2020, the AFG program administered nearly \$320 million in competitive grants to eligible applicants whose awards would best address the priorities of the AFG program.

The Office of Congresswoman Kat Cammack offers information on federal grant programs available to communities in Florida's Third Congressional District. To learn more, visit cammack.house.gov or contact the Gainesville District Office at 352-505-0838.

Representatives Cammack, Pallone Introduce SEAS Act To Support Aquaculture & Seafood Industries

GAINESVILLE, FL — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-06) announced the introduction of a bipartisan bill to support aquaculture and seafood industries. The Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood (SEAS) Act reforms federal agricultural policy to ensure these industries receive equal treatment within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The bill requires the USDA Secretary to give the same consideration to aquaculture producers as animal agriculture producers

and ensure adequate and fair funding levels are made available to aquaculture producers through grants under USDA programs. Representatives Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01) and Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-At Large) are original co-sponsors of the bill.

Aquaculture is the production of fish and shellfish in controlled environments and is becoming an increasingly important method of food production. USDA recommends that adults eat at least eight ounces of seafood per week as part of a healthy diet. Despite this recommendation, it awards a disproportionate percentage of program funding to animal agriculture and land-based producers, leaving coastal communities and aquaculture producers without equal access to federal funding. As a result, American investment in aquaculture has failed to keep pace with the rest of the world. According to NOAA, the United States imports 70 to 85 percent of its seafood. It is estimated that more than half of this imported seafood is a product of foreign aquaculture.

"When it comes to food security, we know our national security depends on our ability to produce our own food supply. The Sunshine State is a leader in aquaculture production and it's imperative that we continue this momentum to ensure Americans have safe, sustainable, and affordable seafood across the state and nation. I'm pleased to join Rep. Pallone in ensuring critical congressional support for USDA's aquaculture programs," said Cammack.

Read more at
cammack.house.gov/media/press-releases.

Florida, Georgia Representatives Remind U.S. Trade Rep. Of Promise To Protect American Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Unfair trade practices by Mexico continue to harm American fruit and vegetable producers, especially growers in the Southeastern United States, and undermine our nation's food security. There is strong, bipartisan

support for federal action and relief from Mexico's unfair trade practices.

Rep. Cammack joined U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jon Ossoff (D-GA), and colleagues in sending a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai to request an update on the status of the private sector trade advisory panel for Southeastern producers. Ambassador Tai committed to establish the panel in response to the bipartisan Florida Congressional Delegation's August 2022 Section 301 petition regarding Mexico's unfair trade practices.

- “Establishing the panel, and implementing its recommendations, will be critical to providing economic relief to fruit and vegetable growers and rural economies throughout the Southeastern United States. With the 2023-2024 growing season fast approaching, the panel must be convened as soon as possible.”

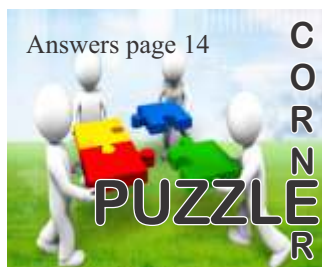
Flashback... In 2022, Sen. Rubio led bipartisan members of the Florida congressional delegation to petition U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai to initiate a Section 301 investigation of fruit and vegetable imports from Mexico and secure trade relief for Florida growers. Ambassador Tai denied the request to initiate a Section 301 investigation but committed to working with the Florida delegation to develop solutions to hold Mexico accountable for its unfair trade practices, including through the establishment of a private sector trade advisory panel.

Back-To-School & Back In Florida's Third For August Recess

Dear Neighbor,

This week marks the first day of school for thousands of families across Florida's Third Congressional District! We wish all of our students, teachers, and parents a productive and successful school year ahead, and we remind all of our area drivers and pedestrians to watch for school buses, put down electronic devices in the car, and

Continued page 16



Across

1. Truisms
6. Heavenly sight
10. Building projection
14. Plume source
15. Wall covering, perhaps
16. Shredded side
17. Hippodrome
18. Sniggler's haul
19. Brobdingnagian
20. Shoe type
21. Gap-toothed actor
24. Escape the clutches of
26. "___ American Cousin"
27. Unit named for a French physicist
29. Rectifies
34. Halt
35. Midshipman's counterpart
36. "Butterflies ___ Free"
37. Performs musically, in a way

53 Re

56. Deseret, now
57. Ages upon ages
58. Type of orange
60. Less or some preceder
61. Hairline cut
62. Happen again
63. Cicatrix
64. Sound stages
65. Word with truth or
ambition
- Down**
1. Achievement
2. Uttar Pradesh tourist site
3. Party decoration
4. Midmorning
5. Eminence
6. One cubic meter
7. Tower part
8. Treaty signer
9. Brought back to original
condition

10. Having missed the boat
11. Horner's discovery
12. Heroic chronicle
13. Rams' mates
22. City near Arnhem
23. On the disabled list
25. Sale-priced
27. Having a sharp taste
28. Opponent of Lee
29. Jeweler's unit
30. Poems of tribute
31. North American wild duck
32. Apple and pear
33. Crystal ball users, e.g.
35. "Blondie" creator Young
38. Property of an attractively thin person
39. Dried-up
41. Furthermore
42. Cornet kin
44. Any one of the two
45. Stolen, slangily
47. Some mantel pieces
48. Skips class
49. Concerning the ear
50. Scarlett's place
51. Burrowing creature
52. "Put a lid ____!"
54. A malarial fever
55. Eggheady sort
59. Mermaid's home

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FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Ashley Moody sent a consumer alert.

This week, we issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians who wish to give funds to those affected by the Maui wildfires of the potential for

charity scams. The devastation caused by this disaster in Hawaii is heartbreaking—claiming more than 100 deaths and burning thousands of acres across the island of Maui. The residents in the affected areas have endured tragic losses and many Floridians may wish to donate to aid organizations.

However, scammers may try to exploit the tragedy to take advantage of generous donors.

Anyone wishing to donate to victims of the wildfires, or charities providing aid, should be on guard against scammers looking to exploit the disaster for personal gain.

Tips to avoid charity scams in the wake of a disaster include:

Check the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance at [Give.org](https://www.bbb.org/giving-voice) or [Charity Navigator](https://www.charitynavigator.org/) to determine whether a charity exists and if there are any complaints against the organization before donating;

Research how the charity uses donations;

Refrain from providing personal or financial information to unsolicited calls or emails on behalf of a charity; and

Carefully review the charity's name before making a donation. Scammers may try to trick unwary donors with titles that resemble legitimate organizations.

For more tips related to charity scams, view our Scams at a Glance: Charity Scams resource by clicking [here](#).

Please be cautious of bad actors when making donations to help the victims of this disaster. Floridians can report charity scams to our office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com).

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY URGES CONGRESS TO PASS GUARD VA BENEFITS ACT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is pushing Congress to pass legislation to protect veterans. In a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general, Attorney General Moody is calling on congressional leaders to support the passage of legislative proposals included in Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding Veterans Affairs Benefits Act.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Our veterans sacrifice so much for our freedom, and they should be able to access the benefits they earned without being preyed upon by bad actors. We need Congress to help protect these brave Americans by passing the GUARD VA Benefits Act and reinstating criminal penalties for unlicensed individuals who may try to prey on our nation's veterans.”

In a letter sent to congressional leaders, the coalition of attorneys general explained that the passing of the bipartisan legislation

would hold unlicensed and unregulated actors accountable for targeting and preying upon veterans who apply for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Federal law requires proper accreditation by the VA Office of General Counsel for anyone who assists veterans in preparing, presenting, or prosecuting claims. However, in 2006, the OGC became virtually powerless to enforce the federal statute against anyone who did not follow the law due to the removal of criminal penalties.

Attorney General Moody and the coalition argues in the letter that, without accountability, unlicensed actors can advertise coaching and consultation services that are purportedly superior to the free services offered by approved actors such as veteran service officers, claim agents and attorneys. In reality, the veterans do all of the work, and the unlicensed actors may only answer questions or advise.

According to the coalition, many of the unapproved actors never contact the veteran once the claim is finished. Approved veteran service officers and claim agents, on the other hand, do all of the required work and remain available to the veteran. Additionally, since unlicensed actors do not have access to the VA claim system, some require the veteran to share system logins, passwords or even bank account information so fees can be immediately withdrawn before the veteran even learns claim money has been deposited.

AG MOODY ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION IN HALLWAY HEROES INITIATIVE AS NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—As a new school year begins, Attorney General Ashley Moody is encouraging participation in a new initiative to help students build positive relationships with school resource officers. The Hallway Heroes initiative will provide schools with crime-prevention resources to foster relationships with school resource officers and urge students to report suspicious activity.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “As the mother of a school-aged child who is about to head back to class, I am excited about our new initiative to keep students safe and help law enforcement stop crime. Our Hallway Heroes initiative will encourage students to build positive relationships with their school resource officers to increase school safety. We have already seen how building these bonds of trust between students and officers can help law enforcement stop crime and better protect students, and we hope this new initiative will serve to further strengthen these important relationships.”

The Hallway Heroes initiative will introduce three different styles of crime-prevention posters in elementary, middle and high schools across the state. Each poster will be tailored to the age group of the school. The goal of these resources is to encourage students to work with Hallway Heroes, school resource officers, to tell the officers if students are aware of a crime. In the case of middle and high schoolers, the posters include information on how to use the statewide tip reporting line, **TIPS.

More than two years ago, Attorney

General Moody partnered with the Florida Association of Crime Stoppers to launch the first-ever, statewide phone number for the anonymous citizen reporting process, **TIPS. Now, Floridians can anonymously report information from anywhere in the state to reach the local Crime Stoppers office. Last February, Crime Stoppers USA adopted the phone number for nationwide use.

The idea for Hallway Heroes came from stories about students reporting suspicious situations to school resource officers—providing the officers with the information needed to protect students. Attorney General Moody highlighted one such story during the Office of the Attorney General Victims' Rights Week Ceremony.

Ashley Moody sent a consumer alert.

This week, we issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians who wish to give funds to those affected by the Maui wildfires of the potential for charity scams. The devastation caused by this disaster in Hawaii is heartbreaking—claiming more than 100 deaths and burning thousands of acres across the island of Maui. The residents in the affected areas have endured tragic losses and many Floridians may wish to donate to aid organizations.

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Please be cautious of bad actors when making donations to help the victims of this disaster. Floridians can report charity scams to our office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com).

Costa Rica

Continued from page 11

better than the USA. In education, Costa Rica has one of the highest literacy rates and one of the highest percentages of university graduates in Latin America. This has led to a strong civil society and a successful economy.

Costa Rica has not only promoted peace in its own country, but has also worked for the peaceful resolution of conflicts throughout the region. The country successfully acted as a mediator in the civil wars in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. For this commitment, the then Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sánchez was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Costa Rica is a Role Model in Environmental Protection

Costa Rica is one of the most sustainable countries in the world and a model of nature conservation. The country obtains almost 100 percent of its electricity from renewable energy and is a global pioneer together with countries such as Iceland and Norway. In 2017, the country went a full 300 days without fossil energy in its electricity generation. Costa Rica is so successful with its sustainable energy that it can even export electricity to neighbouring countries.

The country also has one of the largest biodiversities in the world. More than 5 percent of all known animal and plant species are native to Costa Rica, and this despite the fact that tiny Costa Rica makes up only 0.03 percent of the land area of our planet. By comparison, Austria is home to only about 0.53 percent of the world's biodiversity, even though the country is almost twice the size of the Central American nation.

This is not by chance. Costa Rica has made great efforts to protect its nature. Until the 1980s, the country was affected by heavy deforestation and only about 30 percent of the land was covered by forest. Costa Rica then launched a massive campaign to reforest the country. Today, almost 60 percent of the country's territory is covered with forest again.

To protect nature in the long term, Costa Rica has created numerous protected areas, including 26 national parks. The national parks alone account for over 12 percent of the country's surface area. To put that in perspective: Austria has six national parks, which together make up less than 3 percent of the national territory.

This is not only good for animals and plants, but also for people. Besides being green lungs, the national parks are also tourist magnets. Around 2.5 million tourists from abroad visit Costa Rica's national parks every year. This makes the country a pioneer in sustainable tourism.

Openness and Integration

Costa Rica is very open and welcoming to people from other countries. That is why the number of people living in Costa Rica but born in other countries has increased a lot in the last decades. People come from different countries and for different reasons. Costa Rica has a long tradition of welcoming refugees. Especially when many countries in Central America were affected by civil wars, Costa Rica took in refugees. In recent decades, however, there has also been an increased migration of workers from Nicaragua to Costa Rica to fill labour shortages in tourism and agriculture. Equally, many people from North America and Europe come to live in Costa Rica because of the

Costa Rica is comparatively successful in integrating these different groups into society. Besides the openness of the population, this is mainly due to two reasons: the legal regulations in this area and the national understanding of the Ticos.

The biggest legal difference between Costa Rica and many European countries is that all people born in Costa Rica are automatically entitled to Costa Rican citizenship. Children of Ticos born abroad are of course also entitled to citizenship. In addition, it is easier for people with foreign passports to obtain Costa Rican citizenship than in Austria, for example. In Costa Rica you only have to live in the country for five years, in Austria for ten.

Continued page 16

FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces 17-Day Extension of Record Gulf Recreational Red Snapper Season

2023 season now totals 87 days, the longest combined season since the state assumed management of Gulf red snapper

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced Florida is extending the [already record 2023 recreational Gulf red snapper](#) season by 17 days, adding every Friday through Sunday in September, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day to the previously announced season. The 2023 season now totals 87 days, the longest combined season since the state assumed management of red snapper.

Those fishing from private recreational vessels in state and federal waters in the Gulf, and charter vessels without a federal reef fish permit that are limited to fishing in state waters, will be able to participate in the 2023 Gulf red snapper season.

“I am proud to extend our historic Gulf red snapper season and provide even more opportunities for anglers of all ages to see why Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “While Biden and his federal agencies shorten seasons and strangle fishing opportunities elsewhere, we’re showing what responsible, freedom-minded government can accomplish.”

“The Gulf red snapper season brings anglers from across the country to enjoy this recreational opportunity,” said FWC Executive Director Roger Young. “Being able to extend the season 17 days will allow additional access and opportunities to all who want to experience the Fishing Capital of the World.”

These dates extend the fall season by 17 days. The fall season now includes every Friday–Sunday throughout the months of September, October, and November as well as Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day. See the updated fall season dates below:

- September 1–4 (Friday–Monday of

- Labor Day Weekend)
- September 8–10
- September 15–17
- September 22–24
- September 29–October 1
- October 6–8
- October 13–15
- October 20–22
- October 27–29
- November 3–5
- November 10–12 (Veterans Day Weekend)
- November 17–19
- November 23–26 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Make your plans to get on the water, and if you want to fish for red snapper in state or federal waters from a private recreational vessel, even if you are exempt from fishing license requirements, you must sign up as a State Reef Fish Angler (annual renewal required) at [GoOutdoorsFlorida.com](#).

Governor DeSantis Announces Successful First Year of State and Local Law Enforcement Interdiction Strike Force

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced results from the successful first year of strike force efforts to interdict human smuggling and trafficking and the seizure of illegal weapons and illicit narcotics transported through the state. Over the last year, strike force interdiction efforts have resulted in thousands of felony charges, more than 40 human smuggling charges, over 150 drug charges and the seizure of \$2.7 million worth of illicit drugs.

“The Biden administration is asleep at the wheel, and Florida will not sit idly by while drugs continue to pour across the open southern border and into our communities,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “The overwhelming success of our interdiction strike force serves as a blueprint for states across the nation to uphold the rule of law and protect their communities from the Biden Border Crisis.”

The strike force, [formed at the direction of Governor DeSantis in June of 2022](#), includes members of the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and local sheriff’s offices. Together, they conduct operations throughout the state

focused on counteracting the effects of the Biden Border Crisis, which has resulted in an influx of drug and human trafficking and human smuggling on Florida’s major roadways.

“The crisis at our border is also a crisis in our communities, with weapons and drugs more available than ever and our children vulnerable,” said Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Dave Kerner. “But under the direction of Governor DeSantis, we are taking action to keep them safe, and law enforcement statewide is focused on preventing

these things from taking over our state.” “In the past year, these interdiction operations have been proactive and successful in helping to keep Florida citizens safe,” said **FDLE Commissioner Mark Glass**. “Because of these operations, FDLE Agents and FHP Troopers have been able to identify and prevent some violent offenders from landing in our communities. I thank our FDLE team who are committed

to these operations and the safety of Florida.” Operations like this reinforce Florida’s commitment to law and order by interdicting human smuggling/trafficking and narcotics and illegal weapons when they enter the state and protecting our borders by providing law enforcement and resources to the southern border and the Florida Keys.

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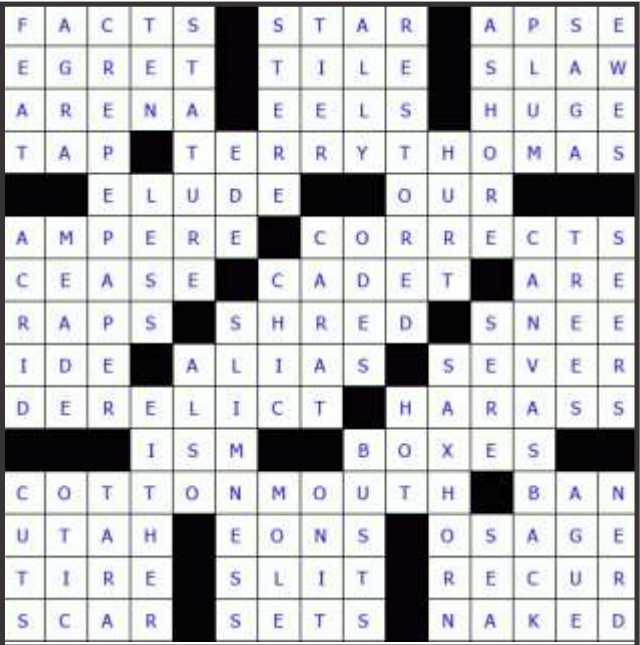
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Equestrian Extravaganza Fund Raiser

Marion County Memorial Honor Guard at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion July 22, 2023. The fundraiser benefited veterans with Spirit Equine Therapy and rescue animals with Open Hands Animal Rescue. Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



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Kat Cammack

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pay attention to our young learners making their way to their classrooms.

I've had the opportunity to visit many folks across the district the last two weeks, meeting with constituents in Gainesville, Ocala, Macclenny, Cedar Key, and beyond. Take a look below to learn about our time with Walmart, RaceTrac, the Rasmussen University Ocala School of Nursing, and more.

Of note, nominations for our nation's service academies are now open. The military academies serve as an excellent opportunity for young men and women to serve our nation while receiving a high-quality education that will serve them well during and after their time in the Armed Forces. For more information, check out the information below or contact Dorothy by calling (352) 505-0838.

The House is out of session until mid-September and I'm grateful to be back in North Central Florida for the next month. I'm excited to have visited with many of you across the district the last two weeks and look forward to more stops ahead.

With all that's happening this Congress, it is my greatest honor to represent you and hear from you about the issues that matter

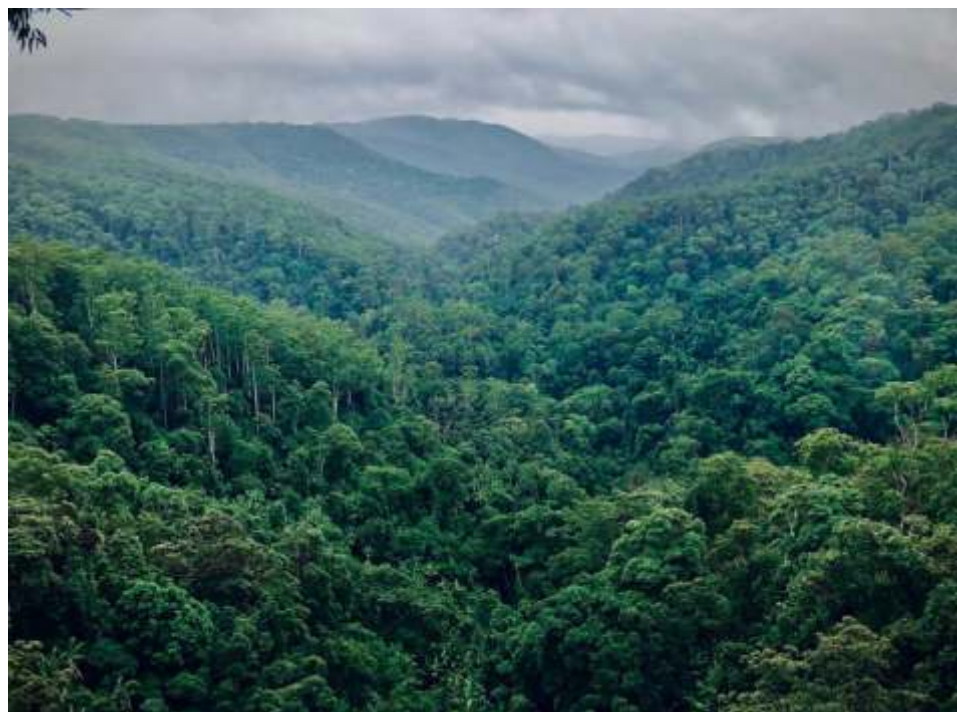
most. You can read below about what we've been up to this week, and as always, you can stay up to date with us here, on [our website](#), and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

Costa Rica

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Costa Rica's national identity also makes it much easier for people from abroad to integrate. Being Ticos has to do with language and values. Anyone who speaks Spanish and uses typical Costa Rican expressions (such as tuanis for "cool", mae for "Oida" or pura vida for everything from "thank you", "please" to "all is well") is quickly seen as a Tico. Values that are highly rated in Costa Rican society are pacifism, environmental protection, but especially cosiness and conviviality. The focus of the national understanding on language and values rather than skin colour or origin of the parents makes it simple to integrate into Costa Rican society.

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