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Weekly Edition
September 3, 2026
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Plate Readers Coming Off County Roads After Wild Meeting

At a raucous meeting of the Lake County Commission on Tuesday, September 1, commissioners eventually held a vote to remove license plate reading cameras from county right of ways. While the vote was unanimous, the two hours of debate that preceded the vote was aggressive, disruptive, and even personal at times as commissioners voiced criticisms of the public and at times each other.

The discussion came on the heels of a move by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis earlier in the week that will require tag-reading cameras be removed from operation along all state roads within the next 30 days. DeSantis claimed the rising fear of a 'surveillance state' as the reason for the move, a sentiment that was echoed on Tuesday morning during the commission meeting by over a dozen public speakers.

On Tuesday, the matter came before the commission due to an agenda request from commissioner Anthony Sabatini. The subject drew a large crowd, with over a dozen speakers asking the county move to remove the cameras that are feared by some to gather and store much more data than simply search for license plates put into the system by law enforcement.

Discussion was immediately contentious, as commission chair Leslie

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COUNTY TO JOIN STATE MANDATE
... and remove license plate reading cameras from county right-of-ways.

Opposition Grows, But...
$1.2 Million More For Umatilla 'Trail' Extension



The cost of building limited-use recreational 'trails' in Lake County has come under broader scrutiny in the past week, when the Lake County Commission was asked to spend

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Haynes Creek Bridge Repair Update

Traffic is being slowed on CR 44 at the Haynes Creek Bridge west of the Grand Island area, as Lake County has begun repairs on the CR 44 structure that spans Haynes Creek. Work began on August 24 to upgrade the bridge, which has seen reduced speed requirements and metal bracing installed since failures began to appear earlier this year.

Workers are working to reinforce damaged areas of the bridge previously identified, as well as work in four additional areas that have been

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In Umatilla, City Looks To Upgrade Largest Dirt Road

The City of Umatilla appears poised to upgrade its busiest unpaved road, rather than close it. The Umatilla City Council, acting at its August 18 meeting, instructed staff to begin the process of devising the best path forward to improve conditions on Owens Lane, spurning requests from some residents of the street who had asked for the road to be closed to through traffic.

Owens Lane, running north and south from Lake Street to CR 450 West (Ocala Street), has become busier in recent years as traffic from the nearby Umatilla Elementary School and residential growth have pushed more vehicles onto the road. Increased traffic and dust it brings along with speeding drivers led residents of the street to come forward earlier this year and request the road be closed at Lake Street and Osceola Boulevard.

After initially considering the request, the city instead took a deep dive into what it would cost to improve the road. The decision came after fears

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OWENS LANE TO BE IMPROVED
... city studying best path forward, but road will remain open.

Umatilla Eagles Pour Support Into Community

The Umatilla Fraternal Order of the Eagles #4491 has had a busy start to the new school year. Members of the organization have fanned out all over the North Lake County community in recent weeks, providing supplies and cash donations to schools and youth organizations as part of the group's ongoing community support program.

The 4491 Eagle Riders kicked off the fall campaign by delivering a total of 96 backpacks to schools for use by children in need. Umatilla Elementary, Umatilla Middle, Umatilla High, Altoona School, and Spring Creek Charter all received donations, with each school receiving nearly 20 backpacks each.

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MEMBERS OF THE UMATILLA EAGLES, AT REAR
... present $1,200 to youth football cheerleaders on Saturday. The gift was part of an organizational support of area young people that also included nearly 100 backpacks given at area schools for children in need.



Up Umatilla Way

By Holly Newby

Wow! September has arrived! Seems like it was just the Fourth of July, and now it is football season…this year is flying past! It must be fall because we spent part of Friday peeling and cooking pear jam. That is definitely part of Florida's fall. If you don't have a pineapple pear (homestead pear) in your yard, try to get one planted. They are long lived and very hearty, even in this drought year.

We hope you all have a relaxing Labor Day weekend planned, with cooking out or watching college football with friends. We can't tell you how happy we are that it is football season again. Finally something fun to think about in between all the other stuff.

We enjoyed making some "Game Day" snacks for the boss on Saturday as we watched college football on TV. Pigs and blankets, salsa and chips, chicken wings, celery and carrot sticks and blue cheese dip! We even made a batch of M&M cookies from a recipe we had never tried before! They were pretty good, so we entered them in the "Cookie Baking Contest" at the 5th Sunday Sing at First Baptist Altoona on Sunday night.

What a fun event the 5th Sunday sing was! There was a good group gathered by 6 p.m. for a multi-church hymn sing. Old-fashioned and heart-warming, the evening opened with singing "In the Garden" followed by "Amazing Grace". Next up was Pastor Bert Hickman and wife Donna as they sang a fun country-style duet. Frank Padgette sang "The Lamb's Book of Life," a group of four pastors sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness" as a quartet accompanied by Diane Cross. Four ladies sang "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" accompanied by Ann Rosecrans of Paisley. The Altoona Methodist Choir with extra friends from the Paisley Church sang "Mansion Over the Hilltop" followed by Sadie Chathman of First Baptist Church of Altoona singing "Reckless Love of God" and a congregational singing of "Blessed Assurance" and "How Great Thou Art" rounded out a solid hour of worship music. Pastor Hickman opened and closed the evening with prayer and a call to Christ. Following the music, folks went next door for a full buffet of foods. The meal included fried chicken, pimento cheese finger sandwiches, pigs and blankets, olive and vegetable platters, cookies, cakes, pies and everything good including coffee and tea. It was a lovely evening thanks to everyone who helped. Special thanks to Ron and Cinda Brantley for organizing the sing again this quarter. The next 5th Sunday sing will be hosted by Altoona Methodist Church on Sunday, November 29, and will have an Advent/Christmas theme.







CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT … Pastor Jerry leads a song at 5th Sunday Sing, Donna and Bert perform a medley, Sadie Chatham a popular soloist, Altoona Methodist choir, ministers perform together, Katrina and Ron perform a duet.







Faces in the crowd for the sing included Pat Sykes Amos, Polly Haines, Cinda and Ron Brantley, Marilyn Newby, Pastor John Irwin, Ann Rosecrans, Kathy and Bruce LeClere, Diane Cross, Phil and Cathy Owens, Katrina and Calvin Gentry, Bonnie, Gracemarie, and Aviana Garafano, Hannah Hamor, Cindy Davenport, (Cindy won the Cookie Contest $50 prize and vase of flowers with her batch of Pumpkin Snickerdoodles), Jerry Smith, Dewey Smith (Yes, the Barber…he sings beautifully), Jennifer and James Sellers, Linda and Bob Johnson, and so many others. Thanks for coming, everyone.

We have really been counting our blessings lately. As the State of Florida is being paved over left and right, we now realize that our little bit of woods is a huge blessing. How people can be excited about more concrete and asphalt paving we will never know; give us a country dirt road and a shady canopy of oaks and moss overhead. We literally live on the edge of a Heavenly place here in North Lake County. We were watching a friend's cat over the weekend, down one of those moss-covered roads and saw a dozen wild turkeys trot by, such a beautiful natural place to live. We need to do our best to vote to keep it that way.



CAT GRASS CAN SUPPORT DIGESTIVE HEALTH … for older inside cats.

Fall is a time for carnivals and fundraisers. Spring Creek Charter in Paisley is starting to gather prizes and donations for their carnival which is planned for October 17. Contact the school at 352-669-3275 if you can help be a sponsor or donate a door prize.

Fall is also the time to kick off the next year of Christian Scouting groups. American Heritage Girls at Altoona Baptist Church at 42226 SR 19 in Altoona, welcomes young ladies ready for faith, service projects, and fun. The fall information meeting for American Heritage Girls Troop FL4031 will be Friday, September 4, from 6 - 8 p.m. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Church of Altoona. Girls ages 5–17 are welcome! Come see what American Heritage Girls (AHG) is all about! The club is a multi-level, Christ-centered girl troop where girls can grow in faith, build friendships, serve others, develop leadership skills, and have fun along the way! Message Bonnie directly with any questions at 908-240-7994, or register/follow the link here: https://www.ahgfamily.org/register/tki9ssac6sbm.

We hear the band concession stand at UHS has gone cashless this year. We don't think Dave Ramsey would approve. Kind of hard for kids to buy a Coke and some popcorn on their credit cards. Cash is King! Giving away 3% to a credit card provider isn't good for profits or prices in our opinion.

Altoona Methodist Church will host Holy

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Bridge... cont'd

deemed also of concern, according to Lake County officials this week.

The current work is expected to stabilize the structure until longer term repairs can be made.

"The long-term fix will be to re-deck the bridge, within the next five years," said Lexi Farmer, Communications Manager for Lake County.

The bridge was built in 1980 as a concrete span that replaced a previous wooden structure. Designed to serve roughly 4,000 trips per day, the bridge currently serves over 16,000 vehicles per day. Load restrictions currently in place on the bridge are expected to be removed once this project is concluded, according to Farmer.

The repairs are being overseen by Florida Department of Transportation and third party inspectors.

CR 452 Project Coming

On Tuesday, August 25, the Lake County Commission approved an estimated $4.3 million for improvements to CR 452. Using a combination of grant and county funds, the county will improve roughly nine miles running from CR 44 in the Eustis area to the Marion County line.

The project includes a variety of upgrades, including expanded shoulders, as well as a widening of the intersection at Goose Prairie Road. At Felkins Road, a partial realignment is planned.

Additionally, sections of the road will receive drainage upgrades. In some areas, gutter and curbing will be installed.

C.W. Roberts Contracting was awarded the contract for the project.



GOING VERTICAL AT RCM UTILITIES NEW HOME
RCM Utilities will bring over 100 jobs to Umatilla later this year, when it opens its expansive new complex inside the City of Umatilla's industrial park. In the past week, contractors began piecing together what will become the business's home office building. Image courtesy Scott Purvis.



TEMPORARY SIGNALIZATION AT HAYNES CREEK BRIDGE
... as repairs shift into high gear.

Workforce Grant To Fund Training Facility In Eustis

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) has been awarded a $5.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support the development of the Eustis Education and Training Center (EETC), a regional workforce development facility designed to address critical labor shortages and strengthen economic growth across Lake County and Central Florida.

The project includes a $1.3 million local investment from Lake-Sumter State College and will establish a workforce training hub on an 8-acre site donated by the City of Eustis. Located at the intersection of State Road 44 and Hicks Ditch Road in north Eustis, the EETC will provide specialized training for two of the region's most in-demand occupations: commercial drivers and electrical lineworkers. The site includes space for future program expansion.

According to the Florida Chamber Foundation's Future of Work Florida initiative, careers in transportation, logistics, and utility infrastructure are among the state's most critical workforce needs essential to Florida's continued economic growth and competitiveness. Florida labor projections estimate nearly 13,500 annual openings for commercial truck drivers alone over the next decade.

Once completed, the EETC will deliver rapid, credential-based training programs that prepare students for immediate employment while supporting long-term economic development goals. Lake-Sumter State College maintains a 95% job placement rate in these programs, connecting graduates with high-wage, high-demand careers throughout the region.

"The Eustis Education and Training Center represents a transformational investment in our community's workforce and economic future," said John Temple, president of Lake-Sumter State College. "The demand for skilled commercial drivers and electrical lineworkers is only increasing as our region continues to grow. The EETC will help local employers fill critical workforce needs while creating high-wage career opportunities that allow residents to learn locally, work locally, and build their future here."

"We are grateful to Congressman Daniel Webster for his support and advocacy on our behalf to make this a reality for Lake-Sumter State College and our community," Temple added. "In fact, there were many partners and elected officials whose support helped make this project possible including U.S. Senator Rick Scott, U.S. Representative Daniel Webster, State Senator Dennis Baxley, State Senator Keith Truenow, State Representative Nan Cobb, State Representative Taylor Yarkosky, Mayor Emily Lee, the City of Eustis, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Their support will create opportunities for generations of students while strengthening the economic vitality of our region."

The center will feature dedicated indoor and outdoor training facilities for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) instruction and electrical lineworker education, creating opportunities for students to quickly gain industry-recognized credentials and enter the workforce

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Data Center Debate Remains Unsettled Here

Heated debate led to a tenuous truce when the Lake County Commission debated the future of data centers on Tuesday, August 25. Commissioners were discussing the potential of enacting a moratorium on data centers in the county, with a proposed 12-month action breaking down over preferred duration of such a ban and even what a data center was for the purpose of the moratorium.

"A data center could be two servers in a room," said commissioner Kirby Smith, who voiced opposition to a moratorium, especially given a lack of specific definition of a data center in the moratorium. "There's no definition of a data center."

Commissioner Tim Morris warned any implementation of a data center ban would have a chilling impact on economic growth in the county.

"If you have a moratorium, you are not considered," he said regarding how site development firms evaluate locations.

That statement met strong pushback from commissioner Anthony Sabatini, a proponent of a 12-month moratorium that he felt would allow the county time to flesh out the best policy toward what type of data center should be allowed, or banned, going forward.

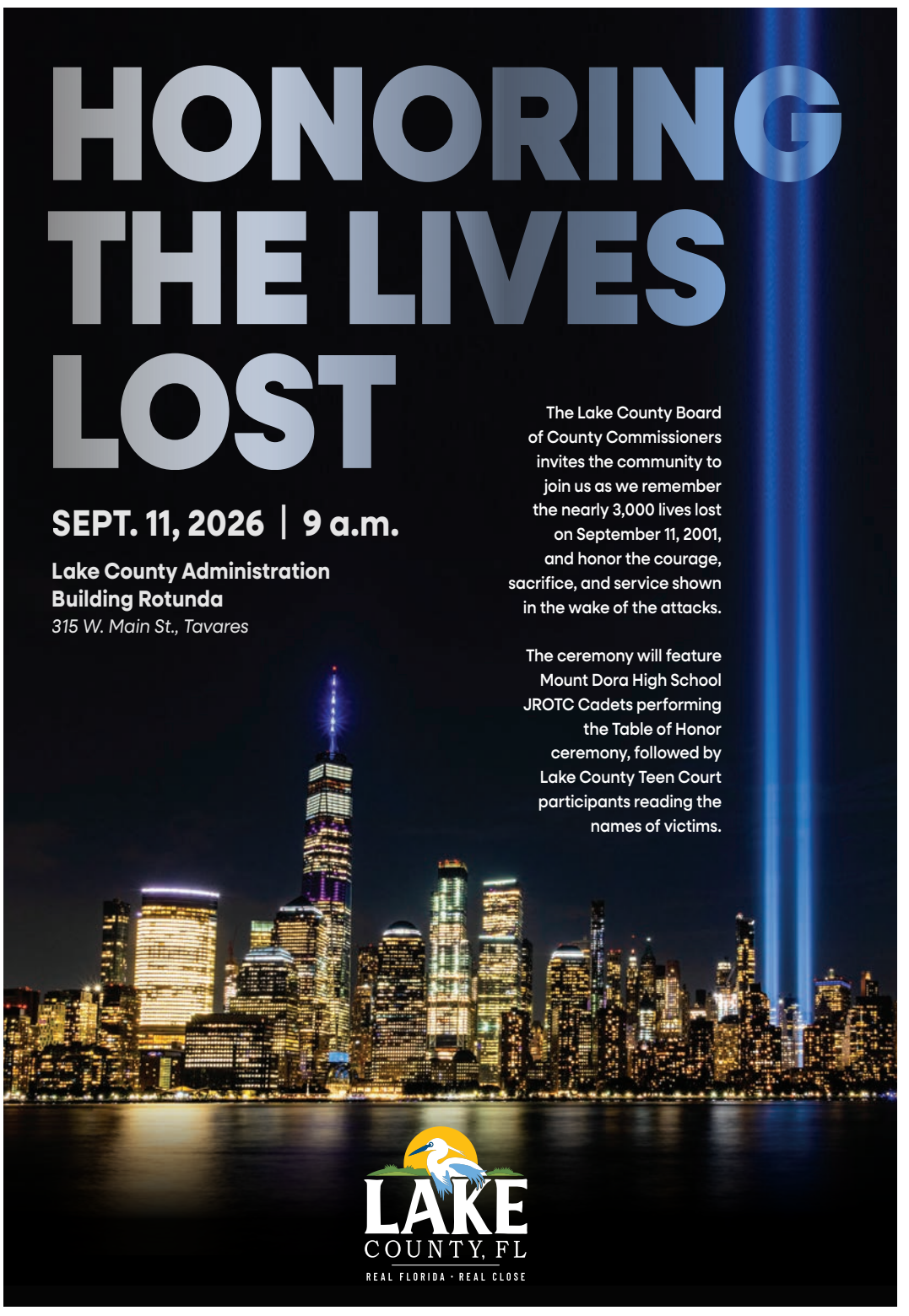
Commission chair Leslie Campione urged action of some kind, pointing out the county's current land use laws could allow a data center of large size to come into the county today given industrial zoning allowances in current law.

Sabatini agreed, stating something needed to be put into to place to "protect Lake County today."

The issue was settled after commissioners coalesced around an idea that included a much shorter moratorium, one that would only last for 90 days, and that the term moratorium not be used in the final language. Additionally, county staff was instructed to develop a pathway of policy that would result in data center applications be routed through the county's conditional use process, allowing the commission greater review powers when applications come forward.

The matter is expected to come forward again at the commission's September 8 meeting.





Editorial

Of Fussing, Fixing, And Fun, Even If It Is Too Much

Short stuff from a week when all we can really think about is how we are losing patience waiting for that first breath of fall that comes in the early morning this time of year. Still walking out to an oppressive wet blanket of humidity each morning. Come on, powers-that-be, it's September! Give us a break, already…

Maybe they should start selling popcorn outside of Lake County Commission meetings. Anymore, between the public grousing about this or that or commissioners grousing with each other, it can get downright tense, or entertaining, in the chambers depending on your point of view. Meetings bring considerable tension these days, and we guess that is OK, though it must take a toll on those involved. After a particularly rough discussion last week, commissioner Kirby Smith seemed to thank fellow members for the hearty debate that, truly, does often lead to better ideas coming forth. But man, it can't be easy up there, and it certainly isn't easy to watch…

Just wanted to drop in a thanks to Alan Stoneking of Umatilla for his gift of a handmade pen this week. It now resides in the 'heavy use' area of our desk, and while we appreciate the gesture, we have decided as a staff that we won't pursue his feelings that we should increase our publishing schedule to three times a week. Maybe we are just lazy, but once a week has always been daunting enough for us!…

It wasn't a universally popular choice, but we'd say the City of Umatilla made the right call to improve Owens Lane and keep it open rather than close it. As Umatilla grows, more road capacity will be needed, not less, and while a paved Owens Lane does increase the chances of speeders harassing roadside residents, we have to hope that increased signage and enforcement will help. And really, every resident deals with the potential of bad traffic around their house, and if an improved Owens Lane can somehow mitigate the mess that is afternoon release at Umatilla Elementary School, that could have a benefit to a broad area, including Lake Street residents who now have a hard time even coming or going from their homes due to the end-of-the-school day backups…

Here we are in September, and nary a named storm has come close to our shores. Could it really be possible the state could go two straight years without getting hit by a named storm? As unfathomable as that may seem, that is the trajectory we are on. We guess there are many potential reasons this could happen, including simple good luck, we must say it does give some juice to those folks who have been saying for years that the weather was being manipulated by human forces. We know people who have pointed out that the lack of storms seems to have coincided with the ending of cloud seeding operations over the state. Are they right? Who knows, and who can really tell what is fact and what is conspiracy anymore? But it for sure is a fact that two years without a named storm is a very rare occurrence, indeed. Time will tell, however, as the hurricane season extends to November as we all know…

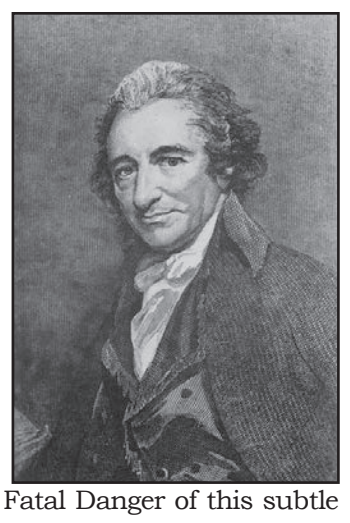
The new party school rankings are out courtesy of 'USA Today', and we are both embarrassed and admittedly a little proud that our alma mater is once again the top-ranked good-time university in the nation. We choose to believe that the mostly for fun rankings include more than just how many students are up for skipping class to get bombed on any given day, but also include the overall happy vibe of campus life, which in our experience Florida State has in buckets. But there is for sure plenty of the falling-down-late-at-night-while-trying-to-get-home crowd staggering around the place. For them, we are happy to tell you about something called the Water Bottle Ministry, where groups of student volunteers take to their appointed sections of campus on early weekend mornings to pass out water to those who could really use a drink that doesn't include alcohol. They also work to get people home safely, and share a word of faith with those willing to hear it. This year, the ministry has grown to where hundreds, if not thousands, of water bottles are distributed each weekend by a large group of students. The ministry is being led by one of our Lake County locals this year, whose name we won't share because we haven't asked her if it was OK. But many of you know her, and for those who don't, you should know that even at the top-rated school of debauchery, good people are doing good things to make the world a better place…

Finally, the fall event season is getting underway, and we hope everyone will pick a place to join in. Thursday sees the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce kick off its seasonal breakfast series, and on Saturday, the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville will host its Fire and Ice cook-off event - welcoming you to dig in to chili and ice cream entries. It's just a few weeks until the annual hootenanny that is the Pierson Rodeo returns, and we received notice of the upcoming Umatilla Kiwanis/Tilla Fit 5K run this week, with the event set for November, right around the time of the annual Bulldog Night fundraiser for UHS sports. And don't forget the Christmas events down the road. Before all the holiday fare, we have Homecoming, Halloween, Cassia Day, and countless other activities to enjoy. You live in a great, fun community with lots going on from now until New Year's. Don't let the television keep you from a good time with friends and neighbors! This fall, get out there and enjoy the rich palette that is North Lake County living. After all, football isn't on all day every day!



Our America...

By Bill Todd



The response to Thomas Paine's pamphlet, "Common Sense," was quick and harsh among the Loyalists, and even among some who supported independence, as shown below.

Well-known poet Hannah Griffitts was a Quaker who wrote a poem in response to "Common Sense" in which she called Paine a "Snake beneath the Grass…The Friend of Tyranny & Foe to you…The Fatal Danger of this subtle Snare…"[1]

A particularly biting rebuttal was published anonymously by a British-born Anglican clergyman, Rev. Charles Inglis of Trinity Church in New York City. Initially titled "Deceiver Unmasked," but when Christopher Duyckink's Committee of Mechanics raided Samuel Loudon's New York printing office, they destroyed 1,500 copies[2], it was reprinted with the title, "The true interest of America impartially stated, in certain strictures on a pamphlet intitled Common sense. By an American." Rev. Inglis sets the tone from the start with his dedication page: "To all sincere lovers of peace and truth; To all who wish for happiness and prosperity of America; and to all the dispassionate, judicious and real friends of Constitutional Liberty; The following Strictures are humbly inscribed by the author."[3] Did you notice the word "Happiness?" It appears so many times in the writings of the day; it truly must have been something they desired.

Inglis' introduction continues with the same tone and pulls no punches: "The following pages contain an answer to one of the most artful, insidious [deceitful], and pernicious [destructive] pamphlets I have ever met with. It is addressed to the passions of the populace at a time when their passions are much inflamed. At such junctures, cool reason and judgment are too apt to stop. The mind is easily imposed on, and the most violent measures will, therefore, be thought the most salutary [beneficial]. Positive assertions will pass for demonstration [proof] with many, rage for sincerity, and the most glaring absurdities and falsehoods will be swallowed."[4] These are also the reasons our founders did not want an emotionally unstable democracy, but a more even-keeled republic constrained by a constitution. "The author of COMMON SENSE has availed himself of all those advantages. Under the mask of friendship to America, in the present calamitous [disastrous] situation of affairs, he gives vent to his own private resentment and ambition, and recommends a scheme which must infallibly prove ruinous… I find no Common Sense in this pamphlet, but much uncommon frenzy. It is an outrageous insult on the common sense of Americans, an insidious attempt to poison their minds and seduce them from their loyalty and truest interest. The principles of government laid down in it are not only false but such as scarcely ever entered the head of a crazy

Continued page 22

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7- Day Rainfall & Temperature Tracking For The Week

Day	Rainfall	Temperature High	Temperature Low
Wednesday	.24	96	73
Thursday	.20	91	72
Friday	.07	93	74
Saturday	.01	97	73
Sunday	.00	95	74
Monday	.62	94	75
Tuesday	.14	91	76

Courtesy of University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Automated Weather Service Weather Station at Umatilla Municipal Airport

Obituaries

DANIEL CAL WINNINGHAM, SR., aged 55, of Umatilla, passed away on August 28, 2026. Arrangements are entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home – Umatilla.

EVA GERTRUDE GRUNER



Eva Gertrude Gruner, 99, of Eustis, FL passed away on August 24, 2026 at home. She was born in Chicago, IL on December 30, 1926 to her parents Alfred and Elsie Baumgartner.

Eva lived her life through times of mercurial change, from her birth in the roaring 20's through the difficult years of the Great Depression, being part of what is called "the Greatest Generation" that stepped up to support our nation during WWII. By the 1950's she began raising her family on hard work and love while supporting her husband's career in the Navy. She was a long-time member of the Workmen's Benefit Fund and S.M.A.R.T.S.

In the latter part of her life she attended regular Bible studies to learn more about God as she marked the annual celebrations of her 100th year up to her death just 4 months shy of that 100th birthday.

Eva was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, William Frank Sr. and her son William Frank Jr. (62). She is survived by her daughter Wendy (Craton) Hastings of Texas and son Robert (Nancy) Gruner of Eustis, 6 beloved grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

She will be interred at Lakeside Memory Gardens next to her husband and son with services to be determined.

Hamlin And Hilbish Funeral Home assisted the family with arrangements.

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b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	2743	2739
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Sheriff's Office Report

The Lake County Sheriff's Office released the following booking information in the past week:

- Tyler Cavileer for driving while license suspended, refusal to submit to BAL test, driving while under the influence second offense by Eustis Police Department.
- Christopher Emery for retail theft third conviction by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Sorrento area.
- Rebecca Nichols for introduction of contraband into correctional facility, trespass, resisting an officer without violence, possession of paraphernalia by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Elsa De Le Santos De R for simple battery dating violence by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Mount Dora area.
- Timothy Brown for petit theft by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Umatilla area.
- Terry Schrock for pretrial release violation domestic, battery second offense domestic by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Mount Dora area.
- Carlos Cruz for battery domestic by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Grand Island area.
- Leigh Elswick for simple battery domestic by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Eustis area.
- Moises Pedro for driving while license suspended/revoked, fail to register motor vehicle, resist officer by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Astor area.
- Kenneth Clark for dealer possess/exc illegal palmetto berry harvest by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Paisley area.
- Corneshia Davis for driving while license suspended with knowledge first conviction by Eustis Police Department.
- Cheyenne Martinez for Volusia County violation of probation by Lake County Sheriff's Office in DeLand area.
- Annetta Canales for driving while license suspended habitual offender by Eustis Police Department.
- Steven Shurr for Volusia County grand theft with damage, Volusia County burglary by Lake County Sheriff's Office in DeLand area.
- John Wood for battery domestic by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Jose Urias Pena for no driver's license never had one by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Aiden Arpaia for driving without a driver's license by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Sorrento area.
- Mohamed Traore for resist arrest without violence, false name to law enforcement by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Javier Villa Vidales for felon in possession of a firearm, drug paraphernalia, felon in possession of ammunition by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Robert Zakreskey Gregoire for destroy/harvest palmetto berry without permission, violation of probation by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Paisley area.
- Jesse Curth for criminal trespass by Eustis Police Department.
- Praise Ola for driving while license suspended by Eustis Police Department.
- Taimoor Yunas for battery by strangulation domestic in Mount Dora area.
- Aaron Flatt for battery domestic second or subsequent by Eustis Police Department.
- Corey Davis for simple battery domestic by Eustis Police Department.
- Clarence Oglen for retail theft by Umatilla Police Department.
- Marvin Furlow for possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of paraphernalia by Mount Dora Police Department.
- Stacy Benefiel for simple battery by Eustis Police Department.
- Christopher Stuhr for DUI, trespassing, refusal to submit for DUI by Lake County Sheriff's Office in Eustis area.
- Michael Walls for burglary, possess or use of drug equipment, possession of controlled substance by Eustis Police Department.

Get 'Batty' At Trout Lake

When the sun goes down, the bats come out. Often misunderstood and rarely seen up close, these fascinating flying mammals have a story worth discovering.

On Saturday, September 12, Trout Lake Nature Center Education Coordinator Claudia Rowe will explore the world of bats during "Going Batty," the next Naturalist Program at the Nature Center.

How do bats find their way through the darkness? What secrets does their nighttime world hold?

Going Batty will be held from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Saturday, September 12, at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 E. County Road 44, Eustis.

9/11 Memorial Event Set For Tavares

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners, in partnership with the Lake County Historical Society and the City of Tavares, invites the community to gather in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 lives lost during the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The remembrance ceremony will take place on Friday, September 11, at 9 a.m. in the rotunda of the Lake County Administration Building, located at 315 West Main Street in Tavares.

The ceremony will feature Mount Dora High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) cadets performing a Table of Honor (a solemn tribute to those no longer with us). Lake County Teen Court participants will also take part in the observance by reading the names of victims of the September 11 attacks.

Lake County invites residents to come together as a community to recognize the sacrifices made and reflect on the courage and unity that emerged in the face of tragedy.

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Umatilla... cont'd

Communion this Sunday, September 6. Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School for children during the service. Fellowship hour is 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and includes a light breakfast or brunch every week. Family Bible Study is Thursday at 4 p.m. Choir practice is at 9 a.m. Sundays, visitors are welcome to join in all of the above.

The S.O.A.R. (Serving Others And Rejoicing) program kicked off last Thursday at Altoona School at 8 a.m. Thirty students were able to have a Bible lesson from Genesis 2:8, color a garden of Eden coloring sheet, sing a Bible song with music teacher Debbie Lucas and were given friendship bracelets, children's Bibles and a morning snack provided by Altoona Methodist Church. This is an exciting new program open to all students before school on the second and fourth Thursdays. Children must sign up to get to attend the fun! See the front office for sign-up forms.

The Umatilla Chamber of Commerce invites you to join them for their next breakfast meeting on September 3 at 7:30 a.m. Call Charelle to RSVP at (352)669-3511. They are a great group of local business partners. Check out the meeting.

We dodged a bullet with an old cat who had a sick stomach last week. After Dr. David Burba gave the cat an IV and some other treatments, he got better. We have started growing pet greens for the cat now to help his stomach. House cats can't eat natural grass and things that their GI tract needs. The envelope of pet greens is pretty easy to sprout, about three days. Something to think about if you have an older indoor cat.

The Umatilla Garden Club will host its club year's first meeting on Saturday, September 5, at the Umatilla Public Library. They are a delightful group. Meetings are held at the Umatilla Public Library each month. They have so much fun learning and sharing knowledge with each other.

The food pantry at First Baptist Church of Altoona will be open September 3 and 17 and the



IT'S TIME TO PUT UP SOME PEAR JAM!



A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY LANE.

thrift store will be open September 12 and 26 from 8 a.m. until noon. The sewing ministry continues on the third Tuesday of each month. Visitors are welcome to come and sew and learn. The church will host a chili dinner on September 26 from 4:30 - 8 p.m. Dine in includes all you can eat chili, dessert, cornbread and drink. Carry out is $10 for chili and cornbread, only.

The Eustis High School Class of 1976 is planning a 50 year class reunion for October 23-24. Friday night will be a "Panther Party" at Magnolia Breeze 108 North Bay Street Eustis at 6 p.m. Saturday morning will feature a boat ride from Rusty Anchor at 9 a.m. for $30 per person. Saturday night will be a dinner/dance at the Elks Club in Eustis for $25 per guest with live 70s music. Contact Martha Dandridge, David Griswold, Joey Hohman, Karen Gnann, or Belinda Back Fuqua for details.

The food pantry at First Baptist Umatilla is open every Wednesday and Saturday along with the prayer room and haircut ministry. The food pantry is located on CR 450 East.

The Umatilla High School Bulldog varsity football team won its first game at home on Friday night! Go Bulldogs! We are happy to see the team having some success again this year.

Umatilla High School has planned its annual "Homecoming" for October 2 at 7 p.m. against opponent Pine Ridge. That is usually when alumni classes hosting reunions gather at Bulldog Stadium, although we haven't heard about any reunions so far this fall. Call me if you are hosting a reunion so we can help get the word out to your classmates (352) 669-2430.

Happy anniversary to Dave Morris and Kathy Keely on September 4. Hope the day is special.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Emery Anne Allen, James Sellers III and David Lucroy on September 3, Meredith Greer Konnerth, Cara Romano Gordon, Julie Seals, Carole Meikle, and Tracy Hawkins September 5, Carol Olson, Amber Parkinson, Frank Couch, and Mark Messina on September 6, and Maggie Bryant on September 7. Birthday blessings to everyone! We don't always get new readers' birthdays, so if you have one, email me at hollynewby1@aol.com.

Please tell your new neighbors about the 'Outpost', maybe buy them a gift subscription for a year. It is only $16 a year online to help them get to know our area.

If you or your family are doing something special this week, let me know! Call Holly at (352) 669-2430 or message me at hollynewby1@aol.com. You can also message Holly Newby on Facebook.

Umatilla Police Report

Umatilla Police reported the following incidents during the past week:

ARRESTS

8/30: Clarence Oglen of Maitland for retail theft.

CRIMINAL CITATIONS REQUIRING COURT APPEARANCE

8/27: James Adrian Loper II of Eustis for driving while license suspended, second conviction.

8/25: Jolene Branch of Altoona for retail theft.

REPORTS FILED

8/27: Officers responded to a residence in the area of East Collins Street reference a person needing treatment under the Baker Act. Person was transported to LifeStream Behavioral Center.

8/27: Officers responded to the Umatilla Superette reference a retail theft. Person was located and returned to pay for items taken. Complainant refused to prosecute; this case is inactive.

8/31: Officers responded to a 911 hang-up on North Kentucky Avenue. Officers determined there was no emergency or crime committed and returned to duty.

In all, 142 calls were dispatched during the period, and 55 traffic stops were undertaken.

Owens Lane... cont'd

that closing the street would make traffic on surrounding roads worse, a situation that even today at times sees traffic at UES backed up all the way to SR 19.

"I would like to fix the road," said mayor Chris Creech at the meeting, in response to a staff presentation that presented either paving the road or covering it in asphalt millings to improve its current, rough surface of mixed clay. The opinion was shared via a consensus of the council, which agreed to move forward with studying the issue with the intent of upgrading the street.

Staff presented estimates that inched as high as nearly $800,000 to asphalt the road, though milling options were considerably cheaper. Other issues, including how to protect a northern section of the road from a retention pond at UES that tends to weep water onto the road during and after high rainfall events, as well as runoff at the south end of the road, are to be considered in the coming weeks as staff further researches the best path forward.

Some residents of the street at the meeting voiced concern over the plan, especially concerning the potential of a paved road bringing even faster vehicles to the area. It was voiced that adding stop signs at intersections and more regular police patrolling could improve the traffic situation.

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Grant... cont'd

in occupations experiencing significant labor shortages.

The investment aligns with the EDA's mission of supporting infrastructure projects that promote economic resilience and job creation.

"The Economic Development Administration's Public Works Program is designed to help distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure," said Ben Page, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Operating Officer performing the nonexclusive duties and functions of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

"This project reflects Eustis' leadership and our commitment to working with our educational and community partners to advance meaningful economic development," says Eustis Mayor Emily Lee.

State Representative Nan Cobb, who has long supported the project, highlighted the regional benefits of the investment and the collaboration that brought it to fruition.

"This project represents what can happen when local, state, and federal partners come together with a shared vision for the future," said Rep. Nan Cobb. "It has been an honor to support this effort as the state representative for this community and I'm grateful to Congressman Daniel Webster for his support at the federal level. The City of Eustis and Lake County deserve this opportunity because it provides another pathway for students to learn locally, work locally, and build successful careers close to home. Keeping talent here strengthens our workforce and keeps investment in our local economy. I have supported this project since my time as a Eustis City Commissioner, when the City and Lake-Sumter State College began discussions that made this partnership possible. We were intentional about creating opportunities, including scholarships for city employees and local residents. When communities work together, everyone benefits, and ultimately the biggest winners are the students of Lake County."

Planning will start immediately with construction expected to begin in early 2027, and the site will welcome students its first students in 2028.

Humane Happenings

by Charelle Burgess



Sometimes All It Takes Is a Share



There's some good news to report from the shelter lately, and this writer always loves being able to share these Happy Tails. A few of the dogs featured in past Humane Happenings articles, including General and Jessie, have found their fur-ever homes. That's what these stories are all about!

The mission behind these weekly articles is simple: shine a spotlight on shelter dogs who are waiting for someone to notice them, fall in love with them and take them home. But readers can play a pretty important part in that mission, too.

You may not be looking to adopt a dog right now. But maybe your sister is. Or your neighbor. Or your friend who keeps saying they "aren't ready for another dog" while scrolling through pictures of adoptable pups.

That's exactly what happened with local friend of the shelter and real estate rock star Kristie Baumgartner.

Kristie has come up with a wonderful way to use her talents to help shelter pets. With every home she sells, she sponsors a pet adoption at the shelter. Now that's what we call putting your profession to work for a good cause!

Recently, Kristie shared the story and photos of an adoptable pup this write named Jazzy Jessie. One of her friends happened to see the social media post and decided to come meet her.

And guess what? She adopted her!

Jessie is now Jazzie, and this fun-loving pup has



A HAPPY ADOPTION STORY!

a new home, a new family and a new fur-sibling. One social media share turned into a whole new life for a shelter dog.

That's a win-win if this writer has ever seen one. So, the next time you see a Humane Happenings article, a shelter post or a picture of an adoptable dog, don't just scroll on by. Share it. Send it to someone. Put it on your own page. You never know whose heart (or whose home) it might reach.

You may not be able to adopt every dog, but you can certainly help one get noticed. Sharing is caring! And maybe, just maybe, more of us can help connect a shelter dog with the person who has been waiting for them all along.

All the shelter adoptable dogs are ready to take home! We have long timers Lucky Luigi and Brilliant Blaze who especially need to be noticed. They are neutered and up to date with shots and on heartworm and flea/tick prevention. Adoption fee required.

To see more pictures and videos of adoptable pets, visit (and share!) the volunteer Instagram page for this story at Humane_HappeningsLC.

Interested in adopting? Visit the shelter at 16435 McKinley Road, Umatilla or fill out an adoption application online at HumaneLake.com. The shelter has visiting hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and can be reached by phone at 352-589-7400.

Trail... cont'd

an additional $1.2 million on a paved strip being constructed in the Umatilla area. Voicing surprise at the cost and scope of the project, commissioners for the first time began to push back against what has been up until now near universal support for the construction of small roads that are limited to non-motorized use.

"I would much rather see that $1.2 million spent on resurfacing our roads," said commissioner Kirby Smith.

The money is earmarked to extend a current construction project, which has been underway for several months, north from Beach Street at the Silver Beach Heights neighborhood to the entrance of the Lakeview Terrace Life Care Community. Once completed the strip running from East Collins Street in Umatilla to the new terminus is budgeted at approximately $2.4 million.

The needed funds are expected to be pulled from an allocation that was planned for the East Lake Community Park In Sorrento.

Commissioners voiced surprise that the funds were needed, with the issue arising after it was learned the previous $1.2 million allocation was only going to cover the current project, though the fact had been previously reported.

"I think it caught us off guard that it was just ending," said commission chair Leslie Campione of the current project's terminus. Campione voiced support for extending the project and reallocating park funds to it due in part that the trail was more likely to get used if it reached Lakeview Terrace.

"It wasn't pulled out of the air," she said of the new terminus, stating Lakeview Terrace had requested the move. "My request on behalf of the people in that community is for this to move forward."

"I've got a real issue with the $1.2 million," said commissioner Tim Morris, asking if Lakeview Terrace had offered to fund any of the cost of having the planned asphalt strip brought to the community's entrance. "Have they offered any participation?"

"I'm 100% sure we've had more requests for road resurfacing," said Smith in response to the idea that commissioners should alter projects due to citizen requests. "I'm not comfortable spending $1.2 million for a mile of trail when we could spend $1.2 million... for resurfacing."

Comparing 'trails' to actual roads has become more common in the local area in recent months, as construction of the 'trail' in Umatilla has shown to follow closely what a road construction project would look like, complete with curbing, drainage, sub-surfaces and more. Set next to SR 19, the project has begun to resemble what a third lane of a road would look like, a road that is only expected to be used by a small segment of the population that is funding it. The addition of miles of asphalt that aren't expected to lessen traffic on area roads while creating more impervious service has raised questions among conservationists and tax hawks alike.

In time, the Umatilla segment is envisioned to become part of a larger system that extends from Astor south into the Golden Triangle area. However, no funding currently exists to construct such a trail, and the U.S. Forest Service has voiced concerns over such a plan including forest land.

At the meeting, commissioners eventually voted to fund the project, with Smith and Morris opposing, and commissioners Sean Parks and Anthony Sabatini joining Campione in support.

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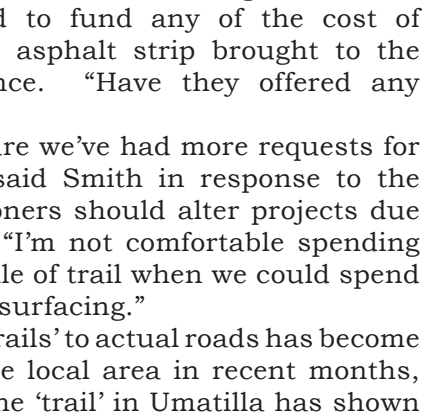


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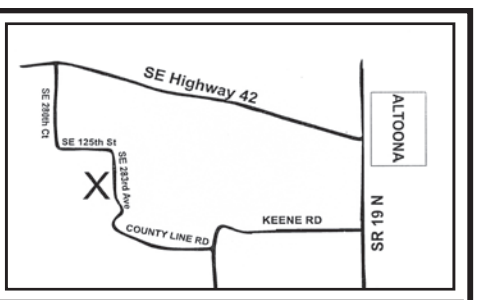
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Sports

After Slow Start, Umatilla Rebounds For Season's First Win

The Umatilla High School varsity football team overcame a slow start in its home opener on Friday night, spotting the visiting Providence School the first 13 points of the game before roaring back and securing a 26-13 win. The victory improved Umatilla's season record to 1-1, with a rivalry matchup awaiting this coming Thursday night in Eustis.

Against Providence, Umatilla initially struggled to slow a Stallions running game that chewed up the first seven minutes of the first quarter and ended in a touchdown. After Umatilla's first offensive series lasted just three plays and lost 11 yards, Providence appeared to be set to score again before a Jayden Robertson interception at the end zone ended the threat.

However, Umatilla's next series ended with a tipped pass from Ridge Durden that was intercepted and returned for a touchdown.

After that sequence, the Umatilla defense stiffened, shutting down the Stallions for the duration of the game while the Umatilla offense found its footing with a balanced attack.

Umatilla scored its first touchdown in the second quarter on a 25-yard Durden to Robertson pass play on a series that was set up by a Bulldog fumble recovery. Umatilla struck again quickly, when Cooper Bowcott intercepted a pass and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown.

In the third quarter, Umatilla extended its lead to 20-13 when Robertson took a pass 58 yards for a touchdown, and Umatilla sealed the victory late in the fourth quarter, when Durden scored on an 18-yard quarterback keeper.

Umatilla's defense was led by Jason Delashment, who posted three sacks on the night. Robertson joined Bowcott with an interception, and both Isaiah Brown and Maquis Harrison recovered fumbles. Bowcott led Umatilla with 11 total tackles, followed by Brown and Grant Kirkland with 10 each.

On Thursday, September 3, Umatilla will travel to Eustis to renew one of the state's oldest football rivalries. Eustis comes into the game with a 1-1 record, having lost last Friday night at Mount Dora by a score of 19-14. The game will serve as the Panthers home opener, with Eustis looking to avenge a 37-0 loss at Umatilla a year ago.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.



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BULLDOGS OF ALL AGES
... on hand to support team on Friday night.

Somewhere In Time

By Michael Cross

Son of both? In researching my family history, I have found many surprises. One of the first one was that my 7th ancestor was a Torie. This was a person loyal to the British Crown during the Revolutionary War, also called a Loyalist. This is why he brought his family to British East Florida in about 1782 after the war.

He was fighting another ancestor of mine who is now called a Patriot, or was called a Rebel. Rebel?, yes the Revolutionary War was a Civil War. It was a war of brother against brother, father vs son, family member vs family member. In my ancestor's case, William Hendricks, born in Maryland, had plantations all over South Carolina. He was a Torie, his situation was well under King George III who was the sovereign of the colonies.

When the fighting of the "Rebels" broke out for its many reasons, William Smith, born in Philadelphia, who also had plantations in South Carolina, but not near as many. He chose the Rebels so he could improve his position, more land, more plantations, more wealth.

William vs. William. My family vs yours. I now find that this is not uncommon. The reason it's surprising is that as a new country, no one really spoke of their Torie ancestor. "Grandpa was a loyalist" is not a patriotic slogan, or particularly something to brag about when celebrating on the 4th of July, so it kind of gets swept under the rug. Understanding this gives me a greater understanding of the Second Civil War, the war between the states.

In this conflict I have a great great Uncle Mathew I Hendricks, born in Florida. He joined The Marion Light Artillery, (CSA) in October 1861, after the Southern States chose succession from the Union. Florida was 3rd to succeed. On the opposite side, my great grandfather David I. Cross, born in New York, joined the 137th New York, to fight for the Union Army against those rebels. In each case these men fought for what they believed in.

They fought for their children's future. They fought for me. I wouldn't be here if they did not. I could not be more proud of all of them. I could not feel more American than this. This is what joining the SCV, the SUVCW, and the SAR has done for my Patriotism. My soul is reconciled and I am at peace.

If anyone wishes to join: Sons of Union Veterans, (SUVCW), Sons of Confederate Veterans, (SCV) or Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), email Mike Cross at: mikecdr2@outlook.com. I suggest you pick only one. Follow your heart, chose your passion.

Bear Hunt Application Period Set To Open

Bear harvest permit applications for the 2026 regulated bear hunting season will open at 10 a.m. EDT on September 11 and can be submitted through September 21 at 11:59 p.m. A bear harvest permit is required to harvest a bear in one of the four selected Bear Harvest Zones from Dec. 5-27. A hunting license is also required to hunt bears, unless exempt.

Applicants must be at least 18 years old by Oct. 1 to apply and may apply as many times as they want for $5 per application, plus handling fees. Permits will be distributed by random drawing. Only one nontransferable permit may be issued per person, and permits will cost $100 for residents and $300 for nonresidents, plus handling fees. No more than 10% of all permits issued will be to nonresidents.

Hunters will be able to submit online applications at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com by logging into their account and choosing "Apply for Limited Entry/ Quota Permits" or by completing an application worksheet and presenting it to a license agent or Florida tax collector's office. Hunters can find more information on how to apply by going to MyFWC.com/License and clicking on "Limited Entry and Quota Permits." Visit MyFWC.com/BearHunting for more information on bear hunting in Florida.


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UHS SPORTS SCHEDULE 9/3 - 9/9/2026

DATE	SPORT	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
9/3/26 Thurs	Bowling	Eustis High School	Bowl 360	3:30 pm
9/3/26 Thurs	Volleyball	Mount Dora High School	Umatilla High School	JV 5:00 pm V 6:00 pm
9/3/26 Thurs	Swim	Mount Dora High School	Mount Dora Public Pool	4:00 pm
9/3/26 Thurs	Football *Varsity*	Eustis High School	Eustis High School	7:00 pm
9/8/26 Tues	Bowling	Mount Dora High School	Bowl 360	3:30 pm
9/8/26 Tues	Boys Golf	Tavares High School	Eagle Dunes	3:30 pm
9/8/26 Tues	Volleyball	Meadowbrook High School	Umatilla High School	JV 5:00 pm V 6:00 pm
9/8/26 Tues	Swim	South Lake High School	National Training Center	4:00 pm
9/9/26 Thurs	Football *JV*	Eustis High School	Eustis High School	6:00 pm

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Free Twirling Lesson Offered As Season Set To Begin

Umatilla and Eustis area children ages 4 and older are invited to participate in a free twirling lesson on September 10th inside Umatilla ACE Hardware in the airconditioned Dee's Dolls Studio from 5-6 p.m. and September 8 in the airconditioned Fellowship Hall at Eustis First United Methodist Church from 5 - 6 p.m. Experienced twirlers are invited to attend a free lesson inside Umatilla ACE Hardware from 6-8 p.m. on September 10. Twirlers will have the opportunity to experience twirling, marching, pom poms, and dances to see if they would like to continue lessons.

Registration for weekly classes September–March will take place at the free lesson. Borrow batons will be available for twirlers who do not have a baton. Twirlers who decide to continue twirling will get to participate in upcoming parades and shows. More information can be found at www.deesdollstwirl.com or by calling 352-408-4360.

In the attached picture are the 2025-2026 Umatilla Beginner Dee's Dolls twirlers. Come join the fun with these twirlers.

Instruction will be provided by Dee Ann Wilson. Dee Ann won numerous awards in twirling, including Southeastern United States Solo Champion. Dee Ann is a certified United States Twirling Association Coach and was a National Baton Twirling Association and Florida Bandmasters Association judge.



TWIRLING YEAR SET TO BEGIN.





FISHING FUN WITH GRAHAM FAMILY
Tate, Miley, and Truitt are seen with grandparents Amy and Joey Graham during a recent fishing outing. "Pops" and "GG" reported a successful catch, with Amy posting the largest fish of the day! Photos courtesy Joey Graham.

Adventures In Homeschooling



By Holly Newby
hollynewby1@aol.com

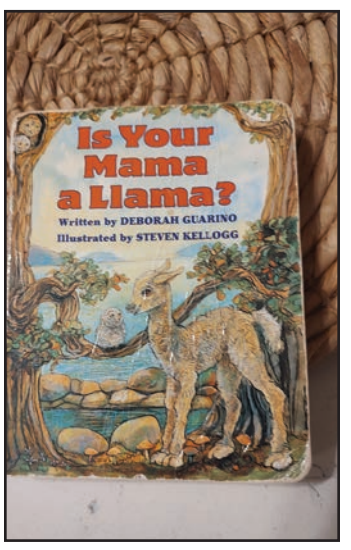
Fine arts is one of the difficult things to arrange when you are homeschooling your students. It isn't that you can't do arts and crafts, but it can be challenging to get the culminating activity of sharing your artwork with others. Exhibiting your artwork is an important part of the process. Learning to finish, frame, and show art work as well as to evaluate and talk about art is an important skill.

We are here to talk this week about how this can be done for homeschoolers in a variety of ways.

One fun way to have an art show is to incorporate the show into a birthday party. Guests can create original art and then display it on a simple clothesline or exterior garage wall. Any empty space will do. Have each child name their artwork and then take turns talking about what it means to them. You might be surprised at some of the elaborate thought processes that go into simple designs.

If you don't want to take up birthday party time, plan to complete artwork and have it framed, shrink wrapped, or mounted by Thanksgiving. An original art show can be a great way to entertain holiday guests while the food is cooking. All the children attending the meal can bring art or make art to include in the show. Just the process of thinking through an art show shows students the worth of their creative efforts and skills. Learning to be a docent and talk about the artwork is a great public speaking activity.





ENJOY HELPING OUR STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN PAGE FOR A CHILDREN'S STORY WITH YOUR ART SUPPLIES.

In the world of homeschooling, every day is an opportunity to think outside the box. Creating art and creating an art show can be a very rewarding lesson. Using children's literature as a jumping off point for a lesson can be an easy starting point. Read your child their favorite storybook, then let them create their own page using crayons, watercolor, or Sharpie marker.

Fine Art is absolutely an important part of the educational process. You can do it.

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Give a Smile, Take a Smile

Well, I don't know about all of you, but this past week the world seemed just a little less sparkly.

On August 25, we lost the one and only Dolly Parton at the age of 80. I think Dolly was one of those rare people who almost everyone loved. You didn't have to be a country music fan to know who she was. You knew the big blonde hair, the rhinestones, that wonderful laugh and, of course, that unmistakable voice.

And Dolly could certainly laugh at herself. One of my favorite Dolly sayings has always been, "It takes a lot of money to look this cheap." Only Dolly could say something like that and make you love her even more!

But underneath all that sparkle was an incredibly talented, hardworking and generous woman.

Think of the songs she gave us: 'Jolene', 'Coat of Many Colors', '9 to 5' and, of course, 'I Will Always Love You'. Then there were the movies. Who could forget '9 to 5' or 'Steel Magnolias'?

But maybe one of the greatest things Dolly Parton ever gave us had nothing to do with a stage, a microphone or a movie screen.

In 1995, Dolly started her Imagination Library in her home county in East Tennessee. Her father could not read or write, and that had a tremendous impact on her. What began as Dolly's dream to put books into the hands of local children grew into something that has reached children around the world. The program sends free, age-appropriate books every month to children from birth until age five.

Just think about that. A little girl who grew up poor in the mountains of Tennessee dreamed big enough to eventually put hundreds of millions of books into the hands of children.

Dolly believed in dreaming big, learning, caring for others and being exactly who you are. One saying associated with her Imagination Library sums it up beautifully: "Dream more. Learn more. Care more. Be more."

Maybe that is why losing her touched so many people. Dolly Parton didn't just entertain people. She gave back.

And that brings me right back home to Astor.

Quietly Giving Back

A little birdie recently told me something about some of the members of our VFW Post 9986 and Auxiliary, and I think it deserves a thank-you.

These men and women don't want recognition, so I'm not going to give names or go into specifics. But I learned that some of our veterans continue to quietly help other veterans and people in our community who need a hand.

Sometimes someone needs a ride to a doctor's appointment. Someone else may need a little help with repairs around the house or getting their lawn mowed. Maybe someone needs a safer way to get in and out of their home and could use a helping hand with a ramp.



Dirty Divas



STIHLERS

Whatever the need may be, there are people quietly stepping up. That really struck me.

These veterans already gave a part of their lives serving our country and protecting the freedoms we enjoy every single day. Years later, they are still giving—giving their time, their knowledge and sometimes just lending a hand to someone who needs one.

And it isn't only fellow veterans they help. When they see someone in need, they help because that's simply who they are.

They don't want recognition, so I will respect that. But I am going to say this: Thank you, Astor VFW Post 9986. Thank you for what you did for our country, and thank you for what you continue to do right here at home. Sometimes the best things happening in a community are the things most people never hear about.

Let's Play Ball!

Now let's move on to some of our young athletes because it's almost time to PLAY BALL!

Our Volusia County teams are getting ready to start their season, and I've heard they are looking pretty darn good!

The Dirty Divas will play their first home game of the season on September 16 at 6 p.m. Coaches for the Dirty Divas are Bhoomi, Sabrina Canary, Shane Aldridge and Kelsey Walters. The Divas have several returning players along with a couple of new faces this season, and from what I'm hearing, they look stronger than ever!

The Five Star Tree Service STIHLERS will take the field on September 15 at 6:30 p.m. Coaches Travis and Sherry Gamble are back, and this team has something to defend—the STIHLERS went undefeated last season! They will also have a tournament team this year.

JD Weber and all of our young players, coaches and families have a lot to look forward to this season. Let's get out there when we can, fill those sidelines and cheer these kids on!

Welcome Back, ACA Thrift Store!

September 1 also means WELCOME BACK to the ACA Thrift Store!

After its summer break, the thrift store is reopening its doors, and I know there are plenty of bargain hunters who have been waiting for this day. Besides finding some great treasures, remember that supporting our local organizations is another way we support our community.

Grab Those Fishing Poles!

Let's talk a little more about the Lake County Airboat Club's 14th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament, coming up Saturday, September 19, from 9 a.m. - noon at Powell's Fish Camp, 25716 Powell Drive in Astor.

This is such a great event for our community! The tournament is open to all children in our community ages 4 to 15, and here's the best part—there is absolutely no cost to participate. The Lake County Airboat Club will supply everything the kids need, including the fishing poles and bait, and lunch will also be provided.

The kids will be fishing right from the riverbank, so no boat is needed. And parents, if putting a worm on a hook isn't exactly your specialty, don't worry! There will be plenty of people there willing to help bait the poles or even show the kids how to cast. You don't have to be an experienced fisherman—or fisherwoman—to come out and have a great time.

Medals will be awarded in three age groups: ages 4–7, 8–11 and 12–15, along with awards for big fish and longest fish.

After all that fishing, everyone can enjoy hot dogs, chips and water for lunch.

What a great way to spend a Saturday morning with your child—outside in the fresh air, along our beautiful river, and maybe even getting them away from the phones, computers and video games for a few hours!

And once again, this is something being given to

continued page 19

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County Commission At Odds Over Development Of New Fairgrounds Site

Lake County's years-long effort to develop a new fairgrounds complex took another turn on Tuesday, August 25, when the Lake County Commission debated the potential of turning operations at a new fairgrounds complex over to a private entity.

The county is developing ideas concerning development options for an estimated 68 acres lying south of Tavares. A long-term plan for the site includes moving the Lake County Fair from its historic home in Eustis to the site.

On Tuesday, commissioner Kirby Smith brought forward a plan developed with private firm Nicholas & Associates that would see the firm front the majority of costs associated with developing an expo complex at the location in return for the majority of operational profits over the next three decades.

The firm's proposal was met with mixed reviews among commissioners.

"I'm 100% against this," said commission chair Leslie Campione, voicing concern that the new firm was different from one previously considered, and that Smith's proposal to pursue a deal with the firm did not allow for other interested parties. "It's being rushed."

Smith pushed back, saying the proposal only sought to begin the process of forging a potential agreement with the firm, which carries a national footprint and has experience in Lake County.

The firm is proposing construction of a 128,000 square foot event center, with the county chipping in up to $10 million. The firm would keep 60% of any profits generated from operation of the building, save for operations of the Lake County Fair and the county Renaissance Faire. The building could house a variety of large scale events, with Smith noting he would like to see the Silver Spurs Rodeo move to Lake County from Kissimmee.

The idea of placing such a structure on the site without a broader plan for the land drew concern.

"I would like more steps to make a vision," said commissioner Anthony Sabatini, who also advocated for an open process to get as many bidders as possible. After an extended discussion, commissioners voted to pursue a dual track of seeking an overall development plan for the location that will allow it to spend recently awarded grant funds aimed at infrastructure, while also pursuing the idea of procuring a development partner for an event center. That path would include opening the process up to multiple interested parties.

History Discoveries At The Umatilla Museum

By Janet Lewis

It's Wednesday, November 17, 1948. You sit in class and watch the clock because it's almost lunchtime. You ask your classmate if she knows what's for lunch today. She doesn't know what's on the menu either.

Upon arriving at the lunchroom, you find it's venison stew with potatoes and carrots, diced beets, honey peanut butter and bread and milk or orange juice.

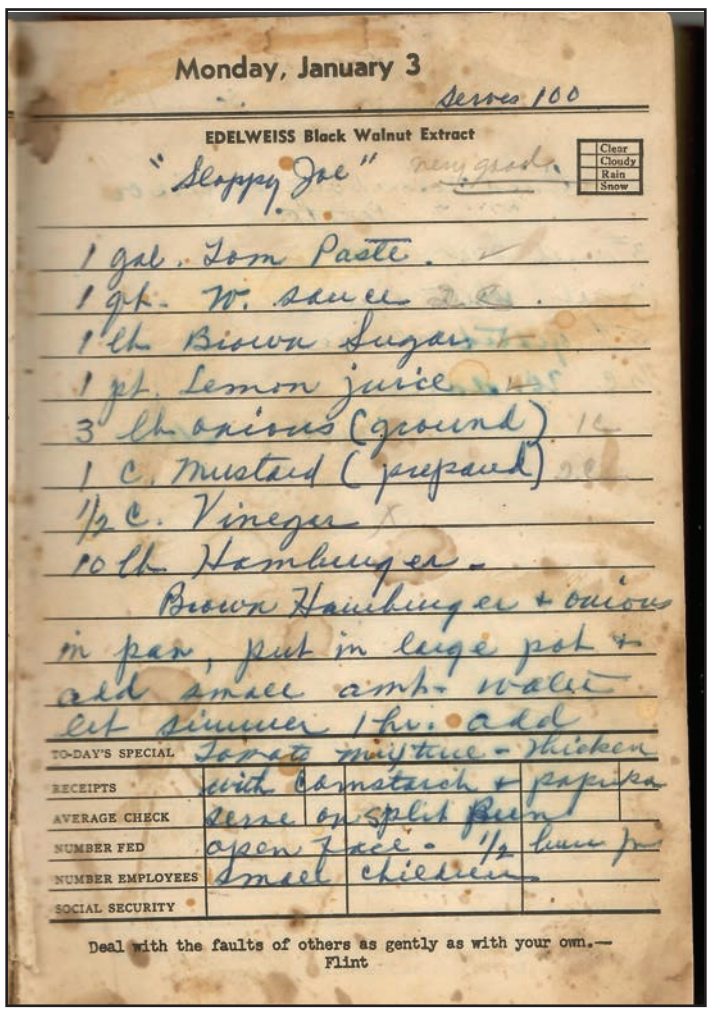
Sounds like an Umatilla lunch to me. Guessing the venison, honey, and orange juice are what they call today," locally sourced."

Some other yummy and classic southern lunches:

Meat Loaf, grits and gravy, okra and tomatoes, carrot stocks and pineapple. Beets seemed to be on the menu almost every other week. Always orange juice or milk and good old, mashed potatoes and hamburger gravy, spaghetti, mac and cheese and bread-white or wheat. There is also a 1949 desk diary for grades 1 to 12th Julie Wingfield's desk diaries. This 1949 book labeled Umatilla schools includes recipes for up to 100 people if you are thinking of meal prepping!

An additional 1949 labeled Umatilla Elementary with Mildred J. Devault's name inside that includes menus, recipes and a breakdown of food cost.

Hamburger gravy	$19.00
Corn bread	$ 1.00
Carrots and raisins	$ 3.39
English peas	$ 4.50
Milk	$ 14.40
Bread	$ 2.75
Total	$ 46.02 to feed 276 people.


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Tomato mixture - chicken with cornstarch + paprika
serve on split Buns
open face - ½ bun per
Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.— Flint

I am ready to travel back to 1949 and enroll back in school.

Warrior Of The Week

Celebrating A Local In Military Service

with Keith Oliver







Umatilla's Cecil Key, at right above, was a proud father and grandfather when his son Glen, left, and grandson Jeff gathered for the occasion of the latter's promotion to U.S. Army major. The late Mr. Key was not himself in the Armed Forces, but Glen noted, "he was mighty proud of us and could not have been more patriotic or supportive. Dad would've made a great Gunny." Jeff presently serves as a battalion executive officer in the storied 10th Mountain Division, headquartered at Ft. Drum, N.Y. The Afghanistan veteran and former UCF ROTC faculty member currently awaits orders overseas. Glen, was an enlisted Marine who, after earning a commission, led an infantry unit in Operation Desert Storm. He also trained America's newest Marines at Parris Island, South Carolina.

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Eagles... cont'd



EAGLES FAITH RIDERS MAKE DONATIONS .. here at UMS.

On Saturday, members of the Eagles could be found at John Westervelt Field at Umatilla High School, where they were presenting a $1,200 donation to the Umatilla Pop Warner cheerleading program to support the purchase of new uniforms for cheerleaders.

The Umatilla Eagles operate out of their club-owned facility on Maxwell Road, behind the Save-A-Lot Plaza. In existence for 20 years locally, the club has a rich history of donating to a variety of community organizations and fundraisers, and earlier this year provided the seed money for the City of Umatilla's efforts to purchase a dog for the police force. To learn more about the organization, visit the club at 835 Maxwell Road.

Cameras... cont'd

Campione worked to maintain a level of decorum in a full chamber. Ongoing shouting from the audience at times led Campione to threaten to clear the chamber, but in the end the public was able to speak, unanimously voicing opposition to the continued use of tag reading cameras.

The debate failed to include input from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, as neither Sheriff Peyton Grinnell or any of his staff attended. The cameras were placed in the county roughly four years ago at the sheriff's request, after commissioners at the time placed what they thought would be appropriate safeguards.

The Sheriff's did release a statement later on Tuesday - see below.

A desire to hear from the sheriff put Campione at odds with many in the audience and Sabatini. Campione cited the need to balance potential good uses of the cameras for things like Amber and Silver alert searches, as well as active investigations. Sabatini said he was willing to have further discussions with the sheriff's office in the future, but motioned for the cameras to be removed immediately or as soon as county agreements allow. That timeline could be around 30 days according to staff at the meeting.

In a room full of people who generally agreed on the subject of removing the cameras, the public's aggressive stance and commissioner infighting created an extremely tense environment. At one point, Campione called Sabatini 'ridiculous' in his actions, and him responding to a comment from that it was 'absurd' for it to be implied that opposition to the license reading cameras was anti-law enforcement.

While voicing support for pulling the cameras from county roads, Sabatini pointed out that an estimated 15 sheriff's offices around the state have moved to discontinue their use of plate reading cameras almost immediately after DeSantis announced the new rule, and that more were expected to follow.

Commissioner Kirby Smith, who ultimately seconded Sabatini's motion, stated that while he had voted to approve the cameras several years ago, the increased technology that could lead to abuse left him feeling they need to go.

"I'm becoming more and more uncomfortable," he said, pointing to recent reports of abuse within the license plate reading system. "I think we need to go ahead and get rid of the license plate readers."

Commissioners also agreed to invite Grinnell to a future meeting to discus cameras and technology in general, with commissioner Sean Parks noting that license plate reading cameras are currently in use in law enforcement vehicles.

Sheriff's Office Statement Regarding License Plate Reading Cameras

"The ability of Automated License Plate Reader systems to enhance public safety and save lives is well documented. And we have acknowledged privacy concerns related to these instruments from the get-go. Because of those concerns, we have had safeguards in place to prevent misuse of the system and its data, and those safeguards have worked. We have never had an instance of misuse, nor have we had even an allegation of misuse. However, we understand that privacy concerns remain and we will be complying with State and local directives concerning license plate readers as they are disseminated."

-Captain John Herrell
Lake County Sheriff's Office



UMATILLA ELEMENTARY



SPRING CREEK



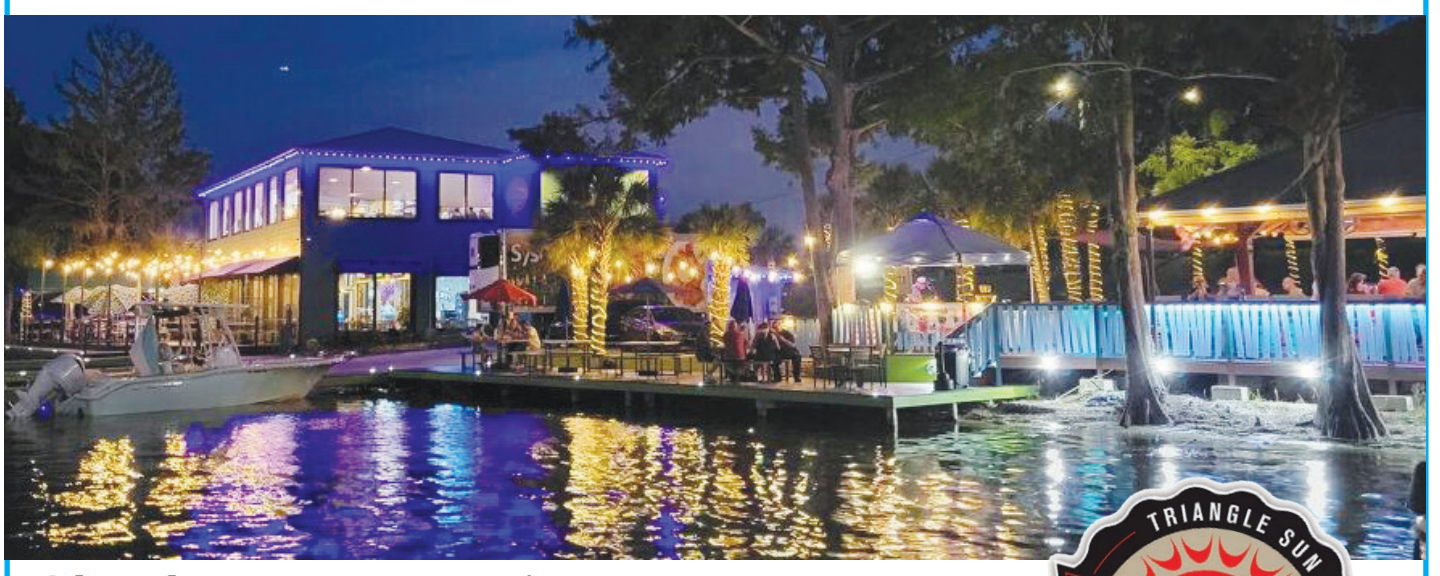
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Section B

Ice Cream, Chili Cook-Offs Set For Saturday At Pioneer Settlement

The Barberville Pioneer Settlement will host its annual 'Fire and Ice' Open House this Saturday, September 5. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., the public is invited to come to the settlement and enjoy free admission as well as a chili cook-off and ice cream churn-off in support of area non-profit entities.

Live music and historic demonstrations will be part of the event, and the settlement's many historic buildings are expected to be open for touring. The settlement is located at the intersection of SR 40 and US 17 in Barberville, east of Astor. Learn more at www.pioneersettlement.org or call 386-749-2959.

Noodles Around The World Coming To Nutrition For Life Series

Embark on a global tasting tour celebrating the world's most beloved comfort food with a vegan twist. Discover how different cultures and peoples sauce and reinvent pasta/noodles.

Sample stations include Rasta Pasta from Jamaica, Mushroom Stroganoff from Germany, Pasta Italiana from Italy, Pansit from the Philippines, and Peanut Curry Pasta from Thailand. Salad will also be served.

Join the fun on Tuesday, September, 8 at 6 p.m. for this exciting culinary event at Umatilla Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1400 North Central Avenue, Umatilla. Admission is FREE!

To RSVP and for more information, email Emarie60@icloud.com or call 352-496-6430.



Fast Food vs Farm Food

If you watch the news or have Facebook or know anyone in the beef industry, you will have heard about a couple of things that just happened in the government these past two weeks. First thing, our government announced that it will start allowing imported beef again. Second announcement, President Trump is going to work to make it easier for local beef producers to sell to consumers. At least, that is what he said.

The weird part of that is the fact that nothing is stopping farmers and ranchers in Florida from doing it already. In fact, there are producers all over each county that sell USDA inspected meat to consumers all day long. I cannot even begin to understand why the government does half of what it does, nor do I want to even try to understand it. As soon as you did, they'd likely change it up anyhow. But I strongly suspect is that this announcement was done just to make people happy, even if it didn't make any sense.

I do find it interesting how people react to things like this. I am not really even a producer and within one day of the first announcement, I got a phone call from a friend of a friend of a friend... truly...that wanted to know if she could come here and buy food, specifically meat. I had to break it to her that I only sold baby goats and milk (for pet consumption only, of course) and that I wasn't really a farm like that. But I was ready to point her in the right direction for whatever it was she wanted.

The cool part about Florida is that we can produce so many different things. Tropical fruits from down south for much of the year. Peaches, strawberries and blueberries right here in the middle of the state early in the spring, and we can follow the harvest north as things ripen as the weather warms up. All "winter" long we get the widest array of vegetables; anything from green beans and tomatoes to broccoli and carrots.

And the protein we can get year-round and within a few minute drive of most of our homes. Much of it is sold by the producer and straight from their farm. So, why don't more people know about this and do it? My thought is that they think it is too expensive. Some of it does sound expensive, especially when compared to Argentinian beef that has been bulk produced, packaged and shipped in. It kind of makes me wonder how they can grow beef so cheap down there. But can they? Or are we, as hungry Americans, overlooking a lot of how that beef is grown and maybe how well the farmer lives and eats?

But let's not go there today. For now, let's talk about how you can feed your family some local, healthy meat and not break the bank. In doing so, you know that you are keeping your hard-earned dollars in the county. Why does that matter? Well,

Recently Appointed Superintendent Outlines Plans



Newly appointed Superintendent Chad Farnsworth shared his vision for the future of Lake County Schools and outlined a 100-day plan designed to strengthen relationships, streamline processes, and create a roadmap for continued success.

The presentation, titled "Building Our Next Chapter Together," serves as the foundation for Farnsworth's leadership approach as he prepares to guide the A-rated district into its next chapter. In sharing the presentation with the School Board at today's workshop, Farnsworth talked about the tremendous progress the district has made over the past decade and said that he is honored to continue that momentum. He expressed a commitment to listen, learn, and work alongside students, employees, families, and community partners to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

"My leadership philosophy is simple," he said. "What's best for kids is at the foundation of every major decision that I make. I'm a front-facing leader, and I'm prepared and equipped with the skills and experience to navigate difficult circumstances and situations. My responsibility is to reduce and eliminate distractions that might shift the focus off of our core mission, which is student learning and enhancing that area."

Farnsworth will assume the role of superintendent in December or January, when Superintendent Diane Kornegay will become superintendent emeritus. She has announced plans to retire in May. His 100-day plan focuses on engaging stakeholders across the district, evaluating opportunities and challenges, celebrating the strengths of Lake County Schools, and identifying strategic priorities that will shape the district's future.

Starting in January, Farnsworth plans to meet with students, teachers, support staff, principals, parents, business leaders, elected officials, and community organizations. Those conversations will help inform long-term goals and ensure that future decisions reflect the needs and expectations of the communities served by Lake County Schools.

In March, the focus will broaden to include a deep dive into data and discovery. He will continue to analyze academic performance, financial records, and operational data across all schools and departments. He wants to streamline processes, eliminate inefficiencies, and reduce costs while protecting the quality of instruction, services to students, and employee support.

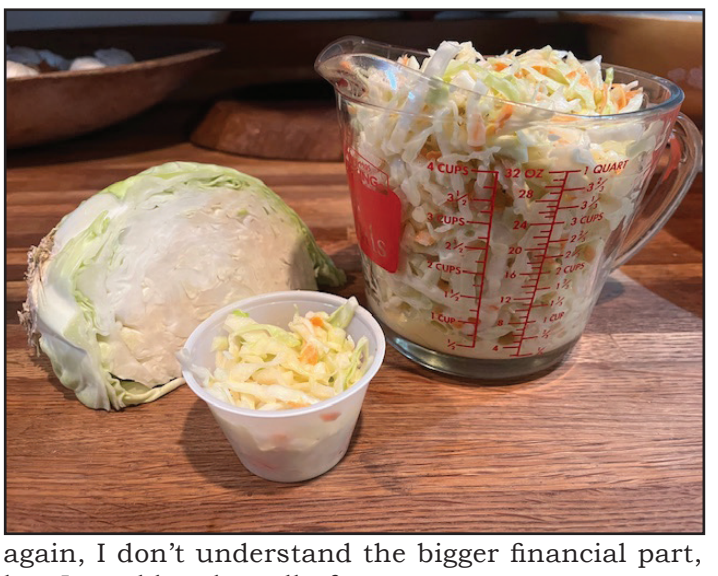
Then, in May, work will begin on drafting a preliminary strategic plan with strategies and action steps to guide the district through the year 2030.

Farnsworth is a lifelong Floridian with 22 years of experience in public education. He started his career as a classroom teacher and coach. He held roles of increasing responsibility, including superintendent of Bradford County Schools, before joining Lake County's team. Here, he started as Chief of Staff, working closely with Human Resources and Employee Relations. His next role as Assistant Superintendent added athletics and food service to his areas of oversight. Most recently, he was named Deputy Superintendent, which added Operations, including growth planning, facilities, maintenance, grounds, transportation, and more, to his list of responsibilities.

After a brief search, the School Board unanimously selected him for the role of Superintendent on August 19. Board members said they were looking for stability, not a change agent, and they believed Farnsworth could reliably continue the district's positive momentum.

Lake County Schools enters this leadership transition from a position of strength. The district earned its first consecutive A ratings from the Florida Department of Education in 2025 and 2026. Graduation rates for district-operated schools have climbed to a record 96 percent. At the same time, students continue to benefit from expanded opportunities in Career and Technical Education, college dual enrollment, the International Baccalaureate program, the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program, and the arts.

"Consistency and continuity are important," Farnsworth said at the workshop. "That's been the key to our success in this district. I'm excited to continue down the path of success that we are on. I look forward to carrying our mission forward with a high level of integrity and passion."



again, I don't understand the bigger financial part, but I would rather all of my grocery money go to a neighbor or a few different neighbors, rather than be divvied up by big corporations and a farmer thousands of miles away only get a few cents on the dollar of what I actually spent. There's no way they are getting a good deal in this.

Just down the road from me in Cassia is a small ranch that raises beef for the public. Before I ever realized who they were and what they were doing, I would admire their steers in the front pasture every time I drove by and they always looked really good. Then I took the time to read the sign and look them up. Like many others across the state, they sell beef by the whole, half or even individual cuts.

But before these beef head to the processor, they are cared after by the same people from the time they hit the ground to the day they head to the slaughterhouse. Some animals are 100% grass-fed, some are grain finished the last few months. Either way, they have a pretty nice, stress-free life. The good part for the consumer is that they can talk to the rancher and ask their questions and know for sure that they are getting a quality product. You never know with store-bought meat.

You would think that this kind of product would cost a lot more than the grocery store, but it doesn't. I checked out the price of my neighbor's ranch and found that the ground beef was actually less than our local grocery store. One less excuse to not be buying better quality food from a neighbor.

Have you ever thought about how much more economical it is to eat at home? This is one of the best ways to save money. Take whatever you would have spent on fast food or mediocre take-out or a nice sit-down dinner, then find a local rancher and spend that much on burger. Now, take your local beef home and make something good with it!

This past weekend, Brian and I made a quick trip to Reddick, just northwest of Ocala. It's out of our normal migration range so we didn't know where the taco trucks were, so we hit a Zaxby's for lunch. Well, I ordered a side of coleslaw with my boneless wing bite meal. These poor folks think that a pile of fries and a slice of bread make something a "meal". They need to take a walk to the garden, those sad little malnourished peasants.

We got our meal and sat down to enjoy the food and all the ambiance of a fast-food chicken joint. I opened my bag just to find the most pitiful little plastic container of coleslaw topping our Styrofoam boxes. I looked incredulously at Brian and he just shrugged. I know why he didn't care... it's coleslaw. But I love coleslaw and am pretty sure 4 ounces of the stuff isn't enough.

It got me to thinking about how much things cost and how much money is spent on less food than it could have bought. I know that some people can just buy whatever they want, but I have seen more than a couple posts lately about people looking to save money on their groceries, or learn how to do more with less. I think that is where the smart shopping, then good cooking, comes in.

We stopped at Save-A-Lot on the way home to grab some old - fashioned oats for a batch of cookies. As we walked in, I saw the bin of pretty cabbages. I grabbed one for a good ol' math problem later, with a side of slaw. My little tub of coleslaw at Zaxby's was $1.59. How much can I make 4 ounces of coleslaw for at home? Pretty simple, right? (price of cabbage/quantity serving of finished product = price per serving) Also pretty simple: coleslaw-shred head of cabbage and a couple carrots, add in homemade mayo, a little seasoning, a little sugar, a little apple cider vinegar. Mix it up and enjoy. Makes people smile.

It turns out that buying your slaw instead of making it at home costs eleven times more! That's a huge increase. Then I got to wondering about how much "real food" we could buy with the money we spent on the one meal. For the $22 we spent on 2 chicken meals and some tea (we will not even go there), we could have bought 2 1/2 pounds of local, homegrown beef and a giant head of cabbage. That would make one heck of a batch of fried cabbage. How many meals are in that pot? A lot!

I'm not against going out to eat, but let's not make it a weekly thing then say we can't afford high-quality and nutritious food. And it's not just food we spend our money on. We watch and listen to a lot that costs us money, which costs our time and health. When we could cut out the junk, literal and figurative, and then be able to enjoy some really good food that will help us live better lives. Until next time, find a farmer and buy some beef.

THIS WEEK IN AMERICAN HISTORY
WITH JUNE PERRY



This week in our American History, we'll look at some unusual events that happened in the state of Wyoming.

What do you know about the state of Wyoming? Have you ever heard of The Jackalope Legend, what about ghost towns or prehistoric dinosaur history? Apparently, the state of Wyoming has it all!

Of course, Wyoming has majestic landscapes, national parks and its culture in the American West. It also had the Mormon Wars during the first half of the 1800s. On October 5, 1857, a band of armed Mormon Militia launched attacks on U.S. Army supply wagons. Why? Well…the Mormons had faced persecution before and they were a bit wary…especially when President James Buchanan sent a large military force to the Utah territory.

The Mormon's had already settled in Salt Lake Valley by 1847 and their leader, Brigham Young, was also the territorial governor. However, growing friction between the federal judges and the Mormons caused President Buchannan to appoint a new governor of Wyoming and that's when he sent in the federal troops.

As the U.S. Army advanced, the Mormon militia, known as The Nauvoo Legion, captured and burned the Army wagons and caused the mules to stampede. The Mormons continued their attacks and the Army was forced to spend a bitter winter at Fort Bridger. The fort had also been attacked and burned by the Mormons. The lack of supplies caused the soldiers to spend a miserable winter in Wyoming. Thankfully the issue was settled the following spring.

We've all heard about the beauty and majesty of Yellowstone National Park, but did you know it's been inhabited by humans for over 11,000 years? Mammoths and Mastodons once lived in Yellowstone National Park and on a rare occasion, fossil discoveries are made. In fact, in 2013, an archeologist discovered obsidian projectile points that were dated to around 11,000 years old and most likely made by some of the first humans to visit the area of Yellowstone. They also left petroglyphs



behind. In 1872, Yellowstone was made into a federally protected park so that generations of visitors to the area can enjoy its beauty.

Wyoming also has its creepy legends. Some stories tell of ghosts who roam old campsites at night, vanishing mists and the legendary Thunderbird.

The Thunderbird, according to legend, has wings so large that they make a sound like thunder when they are flapped. Some ranchers and early settlers claimed to have seen huge shadows flying overhead during storms. Others see the bird as a warning.

The Jackalope is another strange legend. This animal is, apparently, part antelope and part rabbit…or so the legend goes.

Jackson Hole is another unusual place. It sits in a valley surrounded by the Teton Mountain Range. Campers and hikers report seeing unusual lights deep in the woods accompanied by some strange sounds echoing through the trees at night. If that's not enough, Wyoming is also the place where the San Pedro Mountains Mummy was discovered in the 1930s. The mummy was found in a seated position and had blonde hair. Of course, this raised some questions about where it came from. Initially, the mummy appeared to be that of a child. However, early x-rays indicate it was actually a small adult. The mummy was estimated to be between 300 to 400 years old.

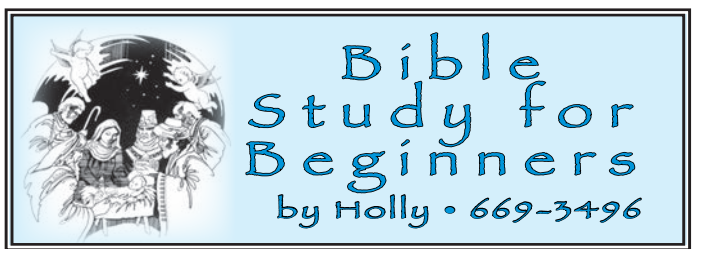
But that's not the strangest story in Wyoming by far! Reports of strange creatures and phenomena, including UFO sightings, have been documented in various parts of the state. In fact, one of the strangest mysteries in Montana history happened in 1967 at the Malstrom Air Force Base.

Security personnel reported a glowing red craft hovering near the front gate of a nuclear missile facility. Then, the unthinkable happened: the missiles unexpectedly went offline. It was a scary time for sure. Was it a UFO? We will probably never know, however, its interesting to note that the state of Wyoming has had over 421 UFO reported sightings since 1995. In Cheyenne, Wyoming, over 50 sightings have been reported, which makes it THE hotspot for UFO activity in the state. Residents of Sweetwater County reported a swarm of UFOs hovering over a power plant for over a year…then they disappeared.

Aside from that, the state of Wyoming was an early leader in oil, coal, telecommunications and even women's suffrage. In fact, in 1869, Wyoming was the first state to give women full voting rights. This landmark decision set a precedent for women's suffrage in the United States. Some of the very first electrified towns and public schools in the nation were in Wyoming, so they really were quite progressive.

Should you find yourself with some extra vacation time, you might want to consider a visit to Wyoming. I'd stay away from Cheyenne though, if I were you. More UFO sightings have been reported there than any other part of the state.

Next week, we'll investigate unusual historical events in another one of our fifty states. It's guaranteed to be something you never learned about in school!



What does God want us to know? Do we think we know everything that he has for us? Probably not. Where can we find out more about what God wants us to learn?

Read with me in Proverbs 1:5 "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance." Wow! That means we all need to learn more, even the wise. This scripture directs us to keep on learning and get guidance if we don't understand something. We can go to a Bible Study, join a life class, go visit a different church, sing out of a new hymnal, visit a teaching page with sound doctrine on the internet and of course always seek more learning directly from the Word of God. Read our Bibles daily!

Read on with me in Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." We can think back to being only 4 or 5 years old and being in Sunday school class in the basement of our church. We learned about Moses and made a tiny brown paper basket, the kind that looked like the one he was set into the river in by his mother in. We can remember thinking, 'wow, that is really dangerous with all those crocodiles in there. That must have been scary for the mom and the baby'. Now in adulthood, we can't imagine the faith it took to place that child in that rickety basket, into that dangerous water and just trust that God could take care of him. That lesson from so long ago is just as fresh today as it was then. Train up a child when their minds are pure and clean and they will not forget in their old age.

Read on with me in Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." How much do we need to know the Lord? It is really everything. Without a knowledge of the sacrifice of Christ, there is nothing in this world that matters. The kind of fear in this scripture does not mean scary; it means to respect with awe. Knowing God personally is absolutely an awe inspiring place in life. Do we know him yet? Do we know all that he offers us?

Read on with me in Philippians 4:9 "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." Are we practicing everything Jesus taught us? If not, why not? He showed us to love other people as ourselves. He showed us to trust God. He showed us to seek God in prayer, to fast, to teach, to walk, to give people second chances. There is so much to do if we are going to practice all that his ministry showed us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father thank you for all you have given us. Thank you for your Holy word, the Bible, which is abundant, filled with grace and truth. Thank you for the sound doctrine that is readily available to us every day. Help us to practice the things your Son Jesus taught us and help us to find good counsel when we do not know what to do. Amen.

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Growing Things

By
Ruth Cantillon
domesticbliss@gmail.com

It's been said that "in a garden, there are no mistakes, only unique design opportunities and unexpected surprises."

That resonates. My garden is one part planning, one part labor, and a third part that consists in reacting to the wonderful little bombshells Mother Nature chooses to hurl my way.

Three of these surprises appeared over the summer. The first was the reappearance of a purple torenia. According to my garden notes, I'd picked several up on sale at Walmart five years ago. In most climates, this non-native hybrid grows as an annual, here and gone within the year. In Florida, you may get an extra season or two if you fuss with it. Mine had died back after 8 months or so- yet to my surprise, here was one popping up again this year in the shadow of a Sunfinity sunflower, also back from a previous year's planting. Since it's rare for hybrids to self-propagate from seeds, I'm wondering if my torenia resurrected from a tough bit of root. At any rate, the sheer serendipity of its appearance after so long an interval made me smile.

My next Garden Event was not as welcome. Some time ago, I learned that many mulches sold in local stores were either loaded with chemical dyes, or imported from China (unbelievable, I know); potentially loaded with invasive fungi or Chinese ground orchids. Since I strive for organic practice, I researched and hit on mulches from Florida, predominantly cypress or melaleuca (another invasive) harvested south of us where the clear-cutting for new development has been even worse than it is here. "At least," I thought, "I can use native material so the rape of our wilderness won't be completely in vain."

That tactic worked until this past year, when I apparently purchased several dozen bags that held not just tree chips but the seeds for what may turn out to be not hundreds but thousands of wild poinsettias, Euphorbia heterophylla. Though this species never achieves any red color, its native Florida status was a positive- quoting again my husband John, who asserts, with truth, that I've never met a weed I didn't like. This time, due to sheer numbers, I was not so thrilled. I'd specifically laid deep layers of mulch in several areas with established trees that I never wanted to weed around again. So much for that plan. Back to pulling!



Miss Bun weeding my garden. All photos courtesy Ruth Cantillon.



Dotted Smartweed looks like tarragon!

But as I got into it, I discovered that quite a bit of the new growth had been neatly scissored off a couple of inches above the ground. That evening, we caught our resident marsh rabbit having a nice evening nibble. Miss Bun is very obliging- she each year seems to choose the weed that's so prolific it's beginning to annoy me. Last year it was the invasive Asian version of our native tassel flowers that had moved in and gone rogue. Now, it's the wild poinsettia. So, I'm leaving her family some clumps of it to snack on. Next week, I'll be interplanting other perennials, both garden and native, around them- I like to work with what I have when I can; however, I'm still disgusted that my "native mulch strategy" backfired. It might be time to try locally harvested pine needles instead.

The songbirds also partner with me in planting new seeds in my yard. Last spring's resident catbird, swinging every day on a particular trellised branch of honeysuckle, gifted me a pokeweed plant. At first, I was puzzled at its appearance until I remembered my little berry-eating friend who often left a quick deposit as he took off from his favorite roost. That's usually how pokeweeds are spread- the bird's digestive system strips off some of the tough hull, allowing the seeds to sprout more easily.

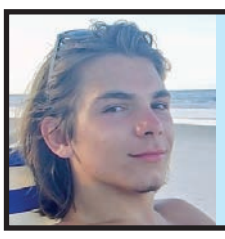


Wild Poinsettia

I suspect one of Catbird's feathered friends was responsible for my last surprise of August. There's an area near the small lake at the foot of our property that is bordered by evenly spaced, old crepe myrtles. I've taken advantage of the shade they produce in summer by placing whisky barrel planters between them; that's where I plant my tender herbs such as mint, violets, cilantro- and tarragon. I had a nice bushy specimen of the Mexican variety growing there for over a year, but I'd neglected it. I noticed it was blooming and buzzing with dozens of tiny native bees the other day. Chastising myself for missing optimum harvest season- once herbs bolt and bloom, the flavor can change for the worse- I decided to chew a leaf and see if it was worth salvaging and preserving for my spice rack. A vintage recipe for Popover Chicken Tarragon is a family favorite and I haven't made it in awhile.

No sooner was my leaf well masticated when an intense, peppery tingle spread over the side of my tongue. It was not totally unpleasant, but it was unexpected, and definitely NOT tarragon flavor! A photograph and a google search later, I learned that what I'd popped in my mouth was dotted smartweed, Persicaria punctata, another Florida native commonly found in moist areas, wetlands, pond edges, etc. While its long, lance-shaped leaves are a dead ringer for tarragon, the delicate clusters of tiny white flowers causing the pollinators to swoon don't look anything like the (mostly) yellow blooms of real garden tarragon species. My bad. Fortunately, no harm done, other than the ensuing cravings for its peppery taste I've been experiencing at odd hours ever since. Once smartweed's flowers go to seed, birds love them, so I suspect that's how this specimen coincidentally supplanted my real tarragon. I'll be transplanting it to the lakeshore soon- I need my whiskey tubs for the herbs I'm going to cook with, but I'd like to keep this spicy Florida native around to enrich my garden's ecosystem- this time, with a clear label planted next to it!

I'll take the incident as a reminder to double check i.d. on any plants I've neglected for a while before sampling them, but, overall, I'm delighted with the surprises my garden gives me- one green leaf or bloom at a time.



"For the Record" by Adrian Newby

Find the Good at Lake Sumter

This year, we have been more involved in Lake Sumter State College's Student Government Association than ever before. This past week, we had our yearly fall "Welcome Back Bashes" which are our yearly fall semester kickoff events. We have two every semester, one at our Clermont campus, and one at our Leesburg. Today, we will be talking about student engagement at our fastest growing local school.

Most people we have met only see Lake Sumter State College as a commuter school, just an in-and-out to get credits at. While they don't exactly have campus life in the traditional sense, they do try and reach their student in what ways they can.

As we mentioned above, Lake Sumter throws a "Welcome Back Bash" on both of their primary campuses every semester. This semester our welcome bashes both featured two food trucks, dessert vendors, and a make and take charm bracelet/jewelry vendor, all of which were free to students. Along with these vendors, there was representatives from over 20 clubs and organizations, all vying for the attention of the students.

Among the clubs present were the Humanities Club, the Star Wars Club, Hawkapella (student choir), Alpha Omega, the Student Art Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Dungeons and Dragons, and many, many, more. These clubs are all student-started, led, and operated. Any student can join or start a club whenever they want, providing they fill out the school's form.

Some of the organizations and services present were the National Society of Leadership and Success, Phi Theta Kappa, student advising, learning services, and several tables representing different departments and major pathways at the school.

Despite being a comparatively small school, Lake Sumter works hard to encourage connection in the student body. The administration is constantly working to make the campus more engaging, and the student organizations and clubs work to throw events to keep the students on campus instead of just coming and going from class.

Now that we are more involved in throwing events and the planning that goes on before hand, we see how much effort it takes to get things together for the students. With weekly activity calendars going out to students, it really takes a village to make everything happen. Just for the record, a school doesn't have to be big for you to be able to have fun at it, you just need to know where to look. So if you or a loved one attends Lake Sumter, spread the word and get them involved!

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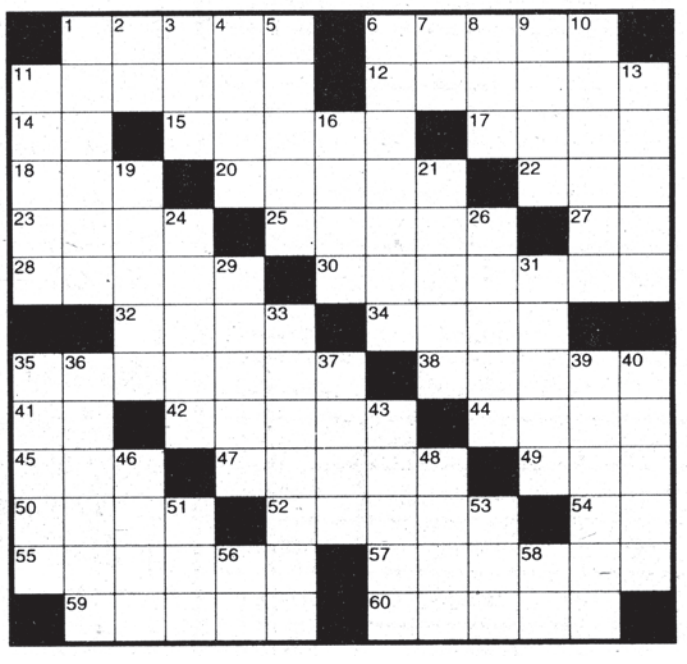
1 Purple shade
6 Storybook monsters
11 A hollowed-out space
12 Hunted
14 Redgrave ID
15 School semesters
17 Theda —
18 DDE opponent
20 More certain
22 Ending with part
23 One who is adored
25 Korean city
27 Niven ID
28 "The Color of —"
30 Duke's wife
32 Mr. Coward
34 Food fish
35 Actor Yul —
38 City in Germany
41 — — cummings
42 Befuddled (2 wds.)
44 Danish island
45 Male turkey
47 Those who make untrue statements
49 Map abbr.
50 Musical composition
52 Nebraska city
54 Selenium symbol
55 — Mandela
57 Talented
59 Wants
60 Go in

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2 Roman four
3 Illuminated
4 The sweetsop
5 Former Sect. of State — Vance
6 Resembling bone
7 Proceed
8 Chafe
9 Richard or Eddie
10 Tears
11 Lien
13 Mountain lakes
16 TV horse (2 wds.)
19 — Bono
21 Trimming
24 Ms. Hemsley
26 Tibet's capital
29 Streisand movie
31 Unsuccessful car
33 Injuries
35 Wager (2 wds.)
36 Unlock again
37 Paper measure
39 Rubber on pencil
40 Famed
43 "— — of Angels"
46 Stubborn animal
48 Leg part
51 Opp. of NNW
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58 "— Deum"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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Paisley Pictured

paisleygoodnews@yahoo.com

Bible Bowl! The new Bible Bowl season studying the book of Acts. Looking for teen players! Organizers are looking for teens to study the book of Acts then play jeopardy style competitive game with other groups throughout Central Florida. We are also looking for sponsors to our current players. Some families and churches add this to their monthly mission giving. Thank you to Calvary of the Lakes Church in Umatilla already giving. Contact Donna Grimes for more information or if you have questions at 734-837-6992 or email Candles4chrst@yahoo.com.

A note from Donna Grimes: Back to school has been a very busy few weeks, however there was a light at the end of August for our family! We have been home-schooling for about six years and enjoy every minute. There are many opportunities to serve in the community, field trips, co-ops to attend, unique educational classes to dig into for all subjects and the flexibility to spend quality family time together. Each year we visit Outer Banks, North Carolina in the summer. The past few times the only rental week available has been the end of August after school started. We packed the family anyway, school books and all! We noticed since everyone else was in school there were less crowds, less traffic, and an awesome chance to travel in the end of summer "school" season. Thanking God this week for home-school flexibility as well as the chance to chase sunsets He paints everyday! Take a moment each day wherever you are to enjoy the beauty of our Creator-He will show you something beautiful.

Local Church service times are as listed: First Baptist Sunday AM Bible Study at 10 a.m. and morning worship service is at 11 a.m. Wednesday night meal time is 6:30 p.m. and Bible Lessons are after the meal with a VBS format for children ages PK4 - grade 12. The free meal is for parents and families of children attending. We conclude at 7:30 p.m. Come join us!

Impact Paisley Church is currently not having services on Sundays and Wednesdays. We will give updates as to when they will resume. However, the pantry with food distribution is going strong! Feeding lots of families every Tuesday from 9-11 a.m.

The Paisley Church is currently not having a Sunday service. However everyone is welcome to join the Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons at 2 p.m.

First Baptist Church News: Thank you David Potter and Mark Smith, known as Six Strings and a Fiddle, for the wonderful worship time Sunday evening, and for sharing your CDs with us! We had a good crowd with folks from Leesburg, Altoona, Eustis, Umatilla and Paisley. The kitchen team did a great job on preparing a beautiful spread of delicious foods to complete the evening. Everyone enjoyed! Thanks to Enola Miller, who brought her father James to enjoy the music.

Thanks to the pantry team who work diligently every Wednesday morning from 8:30 -10:30 a.m. on these hot summer days! The ministry is currently serving over 115 families weekly. We're also thankful for the several gallons of milk donated for our community and neighbors.

We are so excited and thankful to be a channel of blessings to others, and it's only by the Grace of God.

The Paisley County Library: The Library will be closed on September 7 for Labor Day!

We will have 5 weeks of Watercolor on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. On Thursday the 3rd, Adult coloring is at 1 p.m. On the 10th register for Nail Art from 4-6 p.m.

There were three ladies painting canvas bags on the 26th. Some of us just do the best we can, but we had a very talented artist who did a beautiful job.

The library is always closed on Fridays and Sundays. Go to mylakelibrary.org or call 352-669-1001 for more information. Stop by the Library and pick up a calendar so you can get your family involved in the many free activities that are offered.



DONNA GRIMES
... sends a sunset from North Carolina.



ENOLA GAY, CLARA, AND JAMES MILLER.



MARK SMITH AND DAVID POTTER



CARMON AT THE LIBRARY

Cassia Community Club Gearing Up For Landmark Season, Invites You To Join The Fun

By Annette Codding

The Cassia Community Club has a long history and will be celebrating its 100th year this fall at Cassia Day. The club, as it is called by its members, was a local schoolhouse when it was first built. While the club is often used for many other things like birthdays, baby showers and funerals, it is still a favorite for music.

Country and Bluegrass music has been the focus for the past few decades. Yes, decades. One of our long-time members Nana Royal, said she started working in the kitchen during music nights back in 1997. That's some serious dedication.

Over the years, the style of music being played on a regular second and fourth Saturday night changed from true bluegrass to country with a little rock and blues thrown in from time to time. Cassia has some of the most loyal and dedicated bands which still enjoy playing on the second and fourth. And they love to have a crowd to play for. If you have ever wondered about the club, this is a great time to bring the family for some music in the country.

Bluegrass came back to the club last year with the partnership with the Central Florida Bluegrass Association. Through good communication and some determination, the CFBA has done an amazing job at bringing the players and listeners, alike. Banjos, mandolins, bass, guitars and fiddles...all acoustic. Every third Saturday of the month.

One of the things that will keep these kinds of things going for years is exposing our young people to this kind of music. The goal of the CFBA is to rebuild the grassroots of bluegrass and their mission is to: Inspire, Educate, Enable. What better partnership than with the Cassia Community Club? One of the purposes of keeping our old building in good working order is to have a place to inspire, educate and enable young people. So, bring your young people to any of these events. Families and other musicians are always welcome.

Cassia Day is coming up on Sunday, October 25. Costume Contest, Oldest/Youngest Contest. Bring Granny and the babies! It's an election year so maybe there will even be a Cake Auction. Local vendors are welcome to set up a booth for just $50. Contact President, Pat Musselman at 352-589-8008 for more info about being a vendor.

Everyone looks forward to the Chinese Auction held inside of the building on Cassia Day. Many local stores donate nice new items and members send in interesting and cool things from home to fill the tables with goods. Money raised at Cassia Day and throughout the year are used to keep the building in good order and for programs such as The Back to School Bash, Thanksgiving Baskets, and Spring Egg Hunt and The Jim Trapp Scholarship Fund. It's a fun day willed with great BBQ, Music and Family.

If anyone wants to get involved out here, come and join us for a general monthly meeting and potluck dinner every first Tuesday evening at 6:30. The month of September is all about gearing up for Cassia Day 2026. Everyone is welcome. Meet your neighbors, build community, and learn about our dear old building.

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Last year, I won a Beauty Berry plant at the Umatilla Garden Club monthly meeting. I'd never even heard of Beauty Berries but I'm sure glad that I won it. I came home and promptly planted this small tree thing in a planter. It got lots of sun and plenty of water and wouldn't you know, I finally saw some gorgeous bright violet berries that are about triple the size of a big blackberry. They are really beautiful and while you can eat them right off the plant, they are kind of bland. However, if you make jelly or jam with them, they turn into a beautiful bright colored delicious spread.

Beauty berry plants love heat and humidity so Florida is a perfect place for them to grow. I decided to watch some videos and then get to work making jelly. Even my husband wanted to help so of course I was happy about that. It was easy and didn't take too much time. I don't know why I feel like canning is a daunting chore sometimes because it's really not too time consuming, especially when it's water bath canning. Here's a tip I learned. Hold a bowl under the berry and then use your fingertips to gently separate the berries from the plant. You only want to get the balls of berries off rather than the entire berry like you would with a blackberry or raspberry. I picked about 4 and a half cups of berries then rinsed them over and over in a colander and discarding any big stems.

Now I'm excited to tackle some other jams and jellies that very well might end up being very nice gifts for the holidays. I hope you enjoy this recipe and give it a try too. FYI: I'm making some sourdough english muffins at this very moment so that next week, I can share that recipe with you, too. I figured it was the perfect thing to spread my beauty berry jelly all over. Doesn't that sound so good? I can't wait!

Beauty Berry Jelly

Ingredients:
Beauty Berries
Sugar
Pectin
Lemon Juice

Make the juice: (1:1 ratio)

or every cup of beautyberries, you will need one cup of water. I had 4 and a half cups of berries so I used 4 and a half cups of water. Bring them to a boil in a



Look how pretty these berries are!

stainless steel deep pot, then cover and let simmer for 20 minutes Strain through a cheesecloth lined colander and reserve the juice and discard the solids. I ran mine through a food mill first and then strained it with cheese cloth so my juice was nice and clear.

Jelly Formula (per cup of juice):
1 ½ TBSP pectin
½ TBSP lemon juice
1 ¼ cups of sugar
Small pat of butter

Pour juice back into a clean stainless steel deep pot and add the appropriate amount of lemon juice and pectin for the amount of juice that you extracted from your berries. Add the small pat of butter which is used to keep some of the foaming down. Stir constantly and bring to a boil that can not be stirred down. Then add all of the sugar at once and hold it to a rolling boil for one minute stirring the entire time. Remove from the heat and allow to sit for 3-5 minutes. Skim off any foam that is on the top. Ladle into your clean jars, wipe rims with vinegar and place your lids and rings on finger tight. Then, follow your water bath directions and process them for 10 minutes. Remove and let cool overnight.



Equal parts of water to berries.



Getting ready for water bath canning.



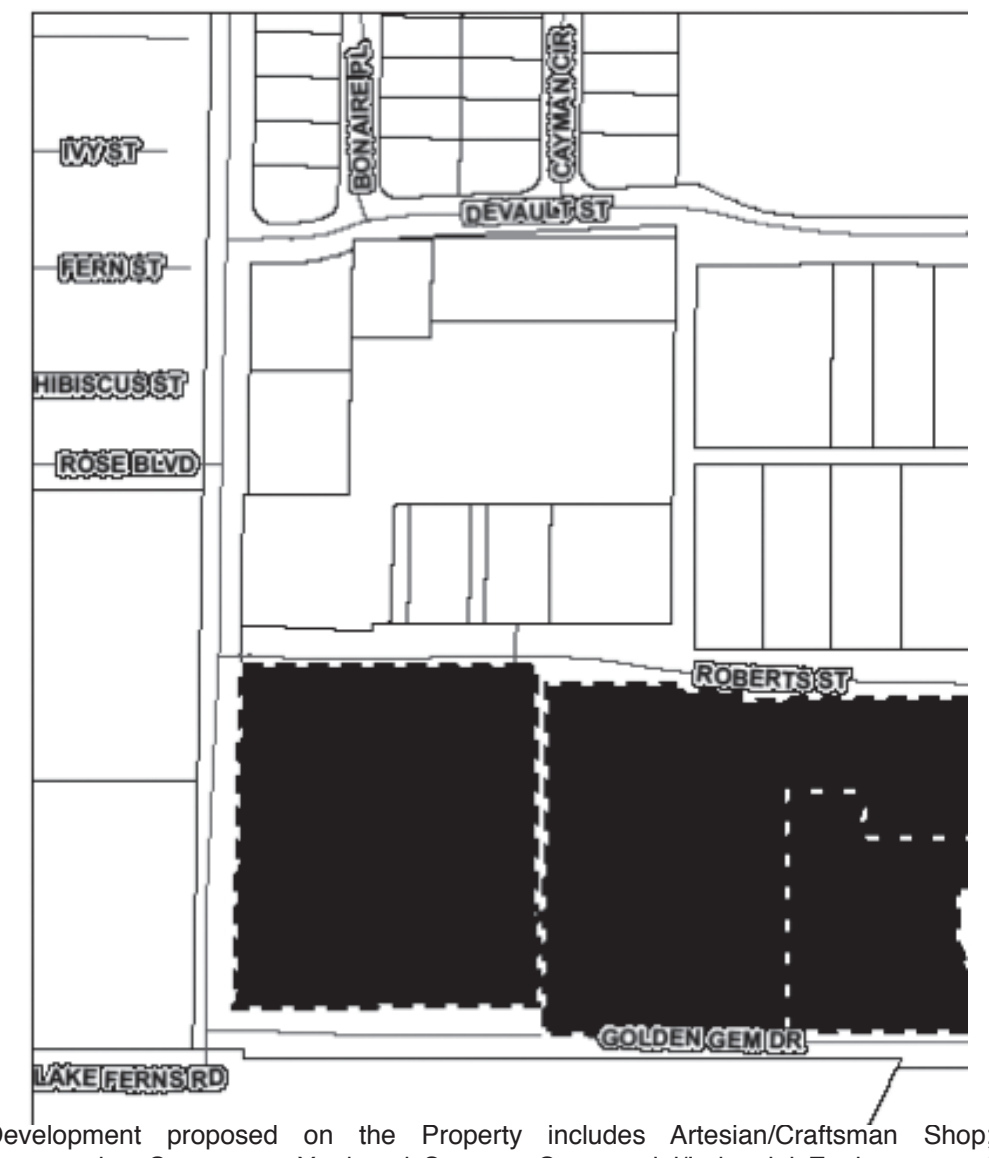
Fifteen half-pint jars ready for holiday gifts.

Saturday September 12th is the first meeting of the new year for the Umatilla Garden Club. It starts at 10am at the Umatilla Public Library. Everyone and every age is welcome to attend and if you're lucky, you might win a cool plant that you never knew you needed too. It's a lot of fun and we always learn so much. Stay tuned for next week's recipe for sourdough english muffins.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR PUD AMENDMENT

ORDINANCE 2026-L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UMATILLA, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-H, AS AMENDED, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING INDUSTRIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTING A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 163.3220–163.3243, FLORIDA STATUTES RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY CONSISTING OF 6.16 ± ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF STATE ROAD 19 AND NORTH OF GOLDEN GEM DRIVE; AMENDING THE CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS AND CONTINGENCIES; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE CERTIFIED COPIES OF THIS ORDINANCE TO THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, AND THE LAKE COUNTY MANAGER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Development proposed on the Property includes Artesian/Craftsman Shop; Construction Contractors Yard and Storage; Commercial/Industrial Equipment and sales; Equipment Rental; Machine Shop; Manufacturing: Fabrication; Office; Retail Home Building Materials; Restaurant without drive through facilities; Specialty Trade Contractors; Warehousing; Welding Shop; and customary and incidental accessory buildings and structures subordinate to the primary use. No residential uses are proposed; accordingly, the proposed residential population density is zero.

The maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is 0.50, the maximum Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) is 0.75, and the maximum building height is thirty-five feet (35').

Local Planning Agency Meeting on September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Umatilla City Council Meeting on September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Umatilla City Council Meeting on September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

All meetings will be held at the Council Chambers, 1 S. Central Avenue, Umatilla, Florida. The proposed Ordinance, proposed Development Agreement, and metes and bounds legal description of the property may be inspected by the public, and a copy of the proposed Development Agreement may be obtained, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the City Clerk's office at City Hall. For further information call (352) 669-3125.

Interested parties may appear at the meetings and be heard with respect to the proposed Ordinance.

A person who decides to appeal any decision made by any board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, will need a record of the proceedings. For such purposes, any such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based (Florida Statutes 286.0105).





Horsin' Around



By Sherry S. Orr

Certainly is a 2 ½ year old domesticated colt who arrived at the Helping Equines Regain Dignity (HERD) Horse Rescue in Eustis this past May. What I mean by domesticated, he is not wild but has had very little previous human handling other than being gelded, and then being shipped to a kill pen, which has made him very afraid of people. Of course, the kill pen videos showed him as a mild-mannered fellow being moved around easily with a lead rope and a halter. The experience was the same when he arrived and was taken from the transport truck to the HERD quarantine area. After the drugs wore off, not so much.

Most of the time a trainer can work with a horse in a confined area, such as a round pen, introduce the draw, and have the horse learn that coming into the middle with the trainer for a rest and being haltered is much better than working in the round pen. I said 'most of the time,' because horses, just like people, are all different and what may work for most doesn't mean it will work for all, so you must have different ways to reach and teach them. After a couple of round penning sessions with the folks at HERD which did end in his being exhausted and haltered, Certainly got even more skittish and then decided nobody was going to come close to him with the halter anymore.

This is where I enter the picture. My goal is to build Certainly's trust in me and then in humans in general which will result in his being willing to be haltered and to learn. As is common knowledge humans are predators and horses are prey animals which 'in a natural state' puts us at odds with one another. Certainly, is Certainly (pun intended) going to act like a horse, therefore, to change the scenario, I CANNOT act like a predator. Horses also have the quickest reaction time of any domesticated animal so it is important to move slowly but not sneakily.

The week before our lessons begin, I go to the pasture, and zig zag out towards Certainly. Predators are straight line thinkers. When we want something, we walk directly to it. When approaching a horse zig zagging makes them curious, not frightened so they are less apt to run. When Certainly looks at me, I turn away from him, this makes him more curious, so he walks up and starts sniffing my back. I quietly kneel on one knee (so I can move quickly out of the way if needed) then gently hold out my hand to introduce myself. I stay with him for 15 to 30 minutes letting him sniff and nuzzle me. I gauge the interaction so that I choose to leave before he gets distracted or wants to move on to something else. I do this on two separate days.

Day one of lessons, Monday, August 10. I take a halter and lead rope along with the breakfast bucket to the round pen with Certainly following aways behind me. I pour the food into his bowl then I sit on top of the round pen railing. At that point he will not eat or drink with anyone standing close by. I sit quietly until he finishes. When I climb down his first reaction is to move away from me as he has done previously from others in the round pen, but when he turns to look at me, I turn away from him releasing the pressure. This movement makes him curious. He finally approaches me. I turn slightly with only one shoulder facing him as I reach out to softly stroke his face. I'm in clear view and he can see everything I am doing. I move slowly tentatively as if asking for permission. He leans in.

On day three, I'm really feeling good with our progress, and I make my first mistake. As a predator I start thinking about the end task of haltering instead of going through the individual steps it will take to get there. I'm facing Certainly and have my hands on either side of his neck with the halter in my right hand. I got greedy and tried to rub the halter over the top of his neck and he quickly bolted. I knew the second he left that I had just set us back at least a couple of days. I was so disappointed in myself. But you never stop on a bad note, so I went back to some of the basics, made some progress that day and let the mistake go.

On day six, I'm thrilled as I can now throw the lead rope over Certainly's neck and move it up and down his body from behind his ears to the top of his tail. With my hand on his rump, I've also started walking behind him from one side to the other. Then I make my second predator mistake. Up until now whenever he would move away from the lead rope, I just let him walk off and let it slide off. For some silly reason, when he started to walk off, I walked beside him and leaned forward trying to keep the rope from sliding off…ugh! How dumb was that?! Of course, he picked up the pace to get away from the rope, and I, then realizing I had just made a second mistake to set us back, stopped and let the rope slide off as I should have done in the first place.

To get a solid start, the first 8 lessons were carried out in eight consecutive days. By day thirteen, I can sit beside him and pet him as he eats his breakfast and drinks water. I am facing him with my shoulders and flipping the lead rope by his neck, over his neck, and around his feet to desensitize him to the movement. I can pet him all over with both hands including up and down the inside and outside of his legs as well as walk behind him to change sides. My movements are more natural/deliberate, not as slow/tentative as in the beginning.

I have become very attune to the fact that Certainly is EXTREMELY aware of the movements used in haltering. As needed, every action is done on both sides of the horse. If something is better on one side versus the other, I work 2/3 on the more difficult side and 1/3 on the less difficult side. I've been touching both sides of his neck at the same time with both of my hands; manipulating his ears, and mane; placing my arm over the top of his neck with my hand touching the other side; and standing beside him to cup his head as if preparing to halter. (Side note, Certainly is smart, he knows haltering happens on the left, so he has no problem with me standing on the right side and cupping his head but is still hesitant to allow me to do so on his left. That little rascal!)

Another positive development is the 'draw.' Certainly, wants to be with me. I can stand a few feet away, lean back, put out my hands and he comes and places his nose in my hands. When we get to the gate, I open it and gesture to him in the same manner I will when we begin lunging on the lead line as well as free lunging so this invitation to move forward will not be foreign to him, and he will quietly walk through the gate. When I leave him and go to the other side of the round pen for a drink he comes over to be with me. Haltering hasn't happened yet, but he is being prepared for other things as we take steps toward that goal, such as picking up his feet, being touched all over with no 'oh no' spots, and someone being able to safely walk behind him. He is very often showing signs of relaxation by licking and chewing, softly blinking his eyes, resting with a back leg cocked, sighing/yawning, and lowering his head and neck.

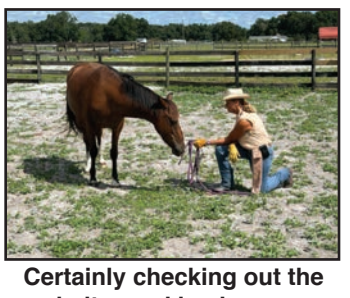
Day twelve moved us from the round pen to a small paddock. Getting reacclimated was interesting, but I was very happy to find we were able to maintain our forward momentum. It gives Certainly more space to roam around but he still wanted to be with me, which is a big win!

Certainly is a sweet boy and will be a great partner ready for adoption this coming spring. As I write for Horsin' Around once a month or so, I will continue to share the ongoing saga of his training. Please continue to stay tuned for the next episode of "Stepping up with Certainly!"

Helping Horses Regain Dignity H.E.R.D. Horse Rescue, Eustis. Director Heather Freeman (202) 441-3607. Facebook www.Facebook.com/HERDrescue



Arm over relaxed neck to prepare for haltering.



Certainly checking out the halter and lead rope.



Certainly coming to visit another day.



Certainly coming to visit.



Certainly placing nose in my hands today.



Certainly placing nose in my hands.



Petting along the top line.



Petting Certainly with lead rope in my hand.



Looping Certainly's nose with halter.



Certainly with lead rope over neck.



Cupping the nose to prepare for haltering.



Rubbing shoulder with halter and lead rope.

IT HAPPENED . . . September of 2007!

Sports

Umatilla Rolls In Season Opener- Dusts Lecanto 30-6

The Umatilla High School varsity football season got off to a successful start Friday night, with the home standing Bulldogs posting a convincing 30-6 win over Lecanto. Umatilla (1-0) was powered by a strong running game and timely defense in the game, with senior Stacey Sayles leading Umatilla on both sides of the ball.

Sparked in the first quarter by a fumble recovery by Cody Chavis, the Umatilla offense methodically marched down the field, eventually scoring on a two yard run by Sayles. James Watkins raced around the right end for a two point conversion, and Umatilla posted an 8-0 lead. After a Lecanto touchdown in the second quarter, Umatilla's defense again turned away a Lecanto drive into its territory when Davannie Coard recovered a fumble. That set up another Umatilla touchdown drive, when Sayles again scored, and also ran in the two-point conversion.

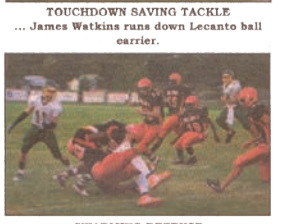
The third quarter saw each team with the ball only once, with Lecanto failing to score on a long drive that stalled on the Umatilla 20 yard-line, and the Bulldogs eating up the rest of the quarter and the first part of the fourth on a drive that ended with Sayles in the end zone again, this time on another short, two yard run. Eric Samuels provided the two-point play run, and Umatilla put the game out of reach at 24-6. Samuels provided a late highlight, galloping 45 yards with just over 7 minutes to play, providing the final score.

While Sayles, Samuels, and Watkins provided the offensive punch for Umatilla, the defense was a committee affair. Chavis and Sayles were around the ball all night, with other highlights provided by Robert Vachon, Terrance Whiley, and Jordan Konicki, who ended a Lecanto scoring threat with a fourth down intereception.

Umatilla will not play this Friday night, and returns to the field on September 14, when Ocala Forest comes to town for a 7:30 p.m. game.



TOUCHDOWN SAVING TACKLE
... James Watkins runs down Lecanto ball carrier.



SWARMING DEFENSE
... bottles up Lecanto Friday night.



LINED UP, READY TO SCORE
... Umatilla offense in goal line formation.



RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION
... is Terrance Whiley.



BAND PROVIDES HALFTIME HIGHLIGHT
... David Demney performs solo here.

UHS Swim Team Off To Fast Start

"It's a great start to the season," says head coach Gary Hopcraft, speaking of the Umatilla High School swim team's quick start this year. After a meet last Thursday against Leesburg, Umatilla finds its boys team undefeated at 3-0 and its girls squad with a winning 2-1 record.

Keyed by names including John Martinez, Brian Monroe, Brad Altman, Megan Fredericks, Rhianon Seymour, and Mallory Manning, the Umatilla swim teams swept the larger Leesburg by scores of 74-12 (boys) and 48-39 (girls). The win came on the heels of another sweep, against Mt. Dora, by scores of 15-10 (boys), and 47-35 (girls).

"We are definitely competitive, and I think we'll have a good season," Hopcraft said this week in advance of the Leesburg meet.

While not a large team, Umatilla is able to make up for periodic "empty lanes" in races by posting high scores for winning events. The formula of quality over quantity has Umatilla near the top of area standings, and looking for even better results down the road.

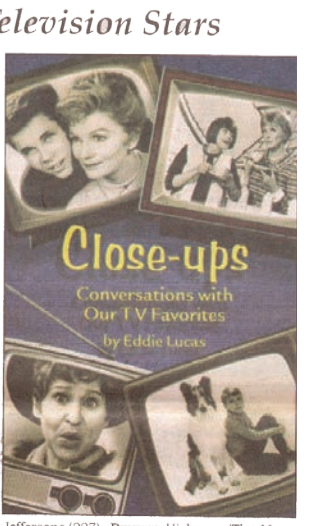


UMATILLA HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING
Front (L-R): Alex Martinez, Jon Martinez, Rebecca Franks, Phoebe Henderson, Liz Bradford, Sabrina Dietrech, Megan Fredericks, Mallory Manning, Rhianon Seymour. Back (L-R): Kevin Stephens, Scott Sutherland, Hanna Pratt, Brian Munro, Brittany Weiland, Cody Matthews, Brad Altman, Mitch Long, A.J. Seymour, Aaron Munro.

Altoona Native Publishes Interviews With Classic Television Stars



EDDIE LUCAS
... now a published author.



Like so many of his peers, Eddie Lucas grew up watching the television and the many smiling faces that dominated the early days of the genre. Over the years, he has developed quite an affinity for the faces that graced the living room, first in black and white and then in color. That interest has led Lucas, an Altoona native and 1975 graduate of Umatilla High, to seek out many of the names behind the characters for a interview compilation entitled "Close-Ups: Conversations With Our TV Favorites".

Published by BearManor Media, the book will be released nationally on October 22. The book features interviews Lucas conducted with classic stars including Barbara Billingsley and Tony Dow (Leave it to Beaver), Marla Gibbs (The Jeffersons/227), Dwayne Hickman (The Many Lives of Dobie Gillis), Jon Provost (Lassie), Keith Thibodeaux (I Love Lucy) and more, the book allowed Lucas to gather insights, thoughts and feelings of some of the last surviving talents of some of the most beloved shows in television history.

"I decided to put all those years I grew up watching television to use. It was something that I had been thinking about doing for some time, so I just decided one day that I was going to sit down and do it," Lucas said this week, speaking of his first book.

A teacher by profession currently living in Georgia but with plans to return to Florida, Lucas spent approximately nine months researching the book, which included finding the celebrities to speak with, writing questions, and editing the compiled material. A spec letter to several publishers netted the interest of BearManor Media, and the rest is history.

For the book's interviews, Lucas looked no further than his own personal favorites.

"I wanted to mainly focus on celebrities from classic television. I made a wish list of who I wanted to interview, and was fortunate in that many of the people on the list agreed to to be a part of the book."

Once the process the started, interviews helped lead Lucas to more interviews.

"For example, when I interviewed Kaye Ballard (The Mothers-in-Law), she mentioned that she had worked with Alice Ghostley (Bewitched/Designing Women) in a live production of Cinderella from 1957 and that they still kept in touch. I mentioned that I liked Alice and her characters and she ended up giving me her home phone number!"

Early interest in the book has been encouraging, and Lucas says he has already begun gathering information for a follow-up, and is currently seeking an agent to help him market the sequel.

So if you ever wondered what Jon Walmsley of the Waltons was doing these days, or how Peter Lupus from Mission: Impossible is spending his days, be sure to check out "Close-ups: Conversations with our TV Favorites" available for $22.95 at amazon.com as well as other retail stores in October.



MASTERS IN READING EDUCATION
Leigh Collins Butler of Umatilla is seen here during recent commencement ceremonies at the University of Central Florida. A Umatilla native and a reading teacher at Umatilla High School, Butler received her diploma on August 4.

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A Sandspur Hill Cracker

by Ed Lisle

Ed. Note: Continuing with the discovery of early Umatilla's records recently found at city hall.

Many small communities and towns have often been referred, affectionately, as a small town. They rolled up their sidewalks at dark. I reckon Umatilla was happy with that definition in early 1906.

January 06, 1906 - "Be it ordained by the Town Council that it shall be unlawful for businesses, merchants and others, doing business in Town of Umatilla, except druggies and physicians, to keep their places of business open no later than 9:00 at night. Penalty of this violation shall be a fine of not more than $10 or imprisonment in town jail not more than 5 days."

An ordinance of loitering on the streets at night after 9:00 o'clock penalty of conviction of no more than $5 or imprisonment in town jail not more than five days. I would imagine that 'back then', when all the stores closed their doors, you might as well just go on home anyway.

On February 08, Umatilla gave notice to the merchants that the ordinance of closing of stores at 9:00 will be enforced this week.

R.L. Collins, authorized to get 100 shade trees for Umatilla's streets.

I'm going to interrupt the lost stories of Umatilla's early days of growing up and catch y'all up on the 'grown-up' troubles of our United Postal Service. (that's the U.S. Mail)

About two years ago, I sent my daughter, Misty a Priority letter to Blairsville, Ga. I mailed it from the Umatilla Post Office. Instead of the guaranteed three days delivery, Misty called after a week, no letter. It had gone from Atlanta, to way out younder in Jackson, Mississippi (I love spelling that word) and back to Atlanta. I was told at my Post Office that Priority mail really isn't guaranteed.

Two weeks ago, I mailed Misty a letter from Altoona. Yes, priority on Wednesday and was told she would get it on Saturday. Guess what? Nothing on Tuesday, a week later. Misty said it was in Graniteville, S.C., Saturday morning. Geese fly a straighter line than that. I went to the Altoona Post Office. "My goodness, what in the world is going on. Let me see if I can find the problem." She pulled up the tracking number. It showed its track in detail. Misty's letter from there, it went to Lake Mary, Florida, added to a container, then to the central distribution center in Graniteville, S.C., and back to Atlanta where it was assigned to 'competent' hands. The Altoona Post Mistress called me "Wednesday, a week later and said, "the package was delivered." She apologized.

On the receipt and tracking number, which was later 15 inches long, they were advertising for help. "Looking for a new opportunity? Join a team that delivers, etc."

I ain't looking for no job, but if I have to mail anything important, I'll take it to Altoona. They did try to help. From there, your mail is on it's own. What am I talking about, anything that takes a 78 cents stamp should be important.

Sorry for the interruption of the good stuff about Umatilla's history, but this was timely. There will be more about them 100 trees.

Astor... cont'd

the children of our community. Nothing is being asked for in return. The Lake County Airboat Club is simply trying to give our kids a fun day and hopefully make some great memories along the way.

So let's give them a GREAT turnout!

If you have any questions, please contact Deron McCabe at 386-547-6003.

I hope to see you there! I'll be there taking pictures and who knows, I may even try to catch a fish myself. Anyone who knows me knows I'm just a kid at heart anyway!

Trade Those Fishing Poles for Cowboy Boots!

Now trade those fishing poles for your cowboy boots and cowboy hats because the 74th Annual Pierson Lions Club Rodeo is almost here!

Mark your calendars for September 18 and 19 at 128 West Washington Avenue, Pierson.

And here's a little money-saving reminder: this is the LAST WEEK to purchase your tickets from one of the Rodeo Queen contestants and save $5 on each ticket! So if you haven't gotten yours yet, don't wait.

Friday night, September 18, is Veterans Night. Our veterans will be honored that evening and veterans get in FREE! What a wonderful way to recognize the men and women who have served our country.

This truly is a night of fun for the entire family. You'll see local barrel racers, calf ropers, bull riders and bucking broncos—and yes, there's even a rodeo clown!

And they haven't forgotten about the little cowboys and cowgirls. There will be a chicken chase and calf chase for the kids, which is always fun to watch. I'm not sure who enjoys it more—the kids participating or all of us watching from the stands!

Come hungry because there will be plenty of great food, along with vendors, raffles and giveaways throughout the evening.

There's just something special about a hometown rodeo—the horses, the cowboys and cowgirls, the kids, the excitement from the crowd and neighbors running into neighbors.

So grab the family, put on those boots and hats and come make a night of it at the 74th Annual Pierson Lions Club Rodeo! It's a great way to support our neighboring community and the Pierson Lions Club while having a whole lot of fun at the same time.

Knock on Wood!

So last night I was scrolling through Facebook - which can sometimes be dangerous because you never know what you're going to find!

Anyone who knows me knows that I am VERY superstitious. And being that I have 20-plus racehorses, one of my favorite sayings is "KNOCK ON WOOD!" I can't even begin to tell you how many times a day I probably say it.

Horse wins a race? Knock on wood.

Horse is training well? Knock on wood.

Someone says, "Boy, everything has been going great lately!" DON'T SAY THAT! KNOCK ON WOOD!

Well, my friend Karen posted something last night that had absolutely nothing to do with me, but of course it caught my attention.

According to an old belief, trees were thought to be inhabited by spirits called dryads, and a hamadryad was a spirit specifically connected to an individual tree. One explanation for the superstition of knocking on wood is that people would touch or knock on a tree to call upon the spirit for protection, good luck or to ward off evil.

Now, whether that's really where our modern-day "knock on wood" came from is apparently up for debate, but I still thought it was pretty darn interesting!

And here's the funny part: someone actually gave me a little piece of wood with a face on it many years ago, and I STILL HAVE IT!

Maybe I've had my own little tree spirit sitting around all these years and didn't even know it! Knock on wood!

Well, after reading that, naturally I kept scrolling. Then I came across something called a "witchy tip." Now before anyone gets nervous, I just thought this one was kind of cute.

It said to sprinkle a very small pinch of salt outside your front door or place a little bowl of salt near the entrance and say:

"Only kindness may cross this door. Heavy energy enters no more."

You're supposed to replace the salt regularly, especially after difficult visitors or emotionally draining days.

I don't know about you, but I kind of like that! I may have to try it. And if nothing else, I certainly like the idea behind it—leave the negativity outside and bring the kindness in.

And since we're talking about little traditions and superstitions, I found one more.

Before an important day—maybe a job interview, meeting or some other significant event - clean your shoes. Shoes symbolize the path you're walking, so cleaning them is supposed to reinforce the idea that you're stepping into whatever comes next with intention and readiness.

Now THAT I really like.

Will any of these things actually change your luck? I have absolutely no idea.

But I'll probably clean my shoes, put a little salt by my door, keep my funny little piece of wood nearby and continue saying KNOCK ON WOOD 100 times a day.

Well, that's it for me this week. We started today remembering Dolly Parton, so I think it's only fitting that we let Dolly have the last word, too.

Dolly once said she asked God every day "to let me be a light" and to help her uplift others.

I think that's something all of us can do. You don't need money, fame or a big stage to be a light in somebody's life. Sometimes it's as simple as holding a door, saying hello, helping a neighbor, checking on a friend—or just giving someone a smile when they might really need one.

So this week, let's all try to be a little bit of that light.

And in honor of Dolly, maybe add a little extra sparkle while you're at it!

Until next week, remember…

Give a smile, take a smile. Smiles are contagious, kindness doesn't cost a thing, and you never know whose day you might change.

Have a wonderful week—and as always, keep smiling!

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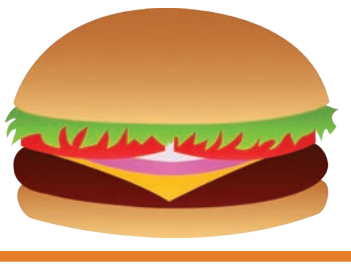
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$.08 for each additional word

352-669-2430

Yard Sale

GARAGE/MOVING/STORAGE CLEAN-OUT THIS SATURDAY - Sunday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. 15120 Peru Road. Furniture, decos, linens, clothes, etc. No early birds please - cash only. b-1-9-3

For Sale

630B VERMEER STUMP GRINDER, RUNS GOOD. 352-638-7558. $4,500 no trades. nb-4-9-17

TWO BURIAL PLOTS LAKESIDE MEMORY GARDENS, Eustis. Located in Garden of Devotion, Lots 97-B, 1 and 2. "Peaceful resting place within the beautiful Garden", the seller will pay $125 transfer fee, and $1,595 fee to open & close plot. All of this for $5,500. Staff at Lakeside will handle transfer of deed. Pay Pal payment preferred. 540-241-0839. nb-1-9-3

Wanted To Buy

CASH PAID FOR UNWANTED CARS. RUNNING OR NOT, no title needed. Free towing. 352-771-6191. b-8-9-10

Wanted

WANTED: FREELANCE KJ'S OR SOUND TECHS WHO may be interested in extra gig work to accompany singer. Reply to Showtunes n' Love Notes pending LLC. Text 352-434-1614. b-1-9-3

Services

ALL ABOUT TREES - REMOVAL, STUMP GRINDING, free estimates, licensed/insured, reasonable and reliable. 352-552-1600. nb-tc

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ALLEN'S LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION, INC. REPAIRS, renovations, dump truck, bobcat services, trenching, roto-tilling, land clearing, tree trimming and removal. Concrete, stone, pavers, retaining walls, fencing and gated entry ways. Licensed and insured. 352-516-9842; 352-669-6968. nb-tc

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WILLIE GIBNER TREE SERVICE LLC - SATISFACTION guaranteed, low rates, licensed and insured, commercial and residential. No worries - hassle free. 352-551-1001. b-52-12-31

MARSHALL'S CONCRETE SERVICE POUR HOUSES, pole barns, driveways, sidewalks, and patios. Free estimates. Call 352-551-7846. nb-tc

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TIM KERR'S TREE SERVICE, LICENSED & INSURED. Free estimates, stump grinding. 352-669-1447 or 352-267-0893. b-52-12-31

H & K LAWN CARE LLC — LICENSED AND INSURED FOR residential and commercial work. Call 352-669-2207 or 352-801-6294. nb-tc

Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF — FILE NUMBER: 2026-CP-1875-HD

DONALD B. WILLIAMS,

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of DONALD B. WILLIAMS, deceased, whose date of death was July 3, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for LAKE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 27, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

/s/ Michael J. Rogers
MICHAEL J. ROGERS, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar Number: 0009441
GAYLORD & ROGERS LLC
Post Office Drawer 2047
Eustis, Florida 32727
Telephone: (352) 483-4888
Facsimile: (352) 483-0732
E-Mail: Michelle@GaylordRogers.com

Personal Representative:

/s/ Amanda Moore
AMANDA MOORE
36730 Tropical Wind Lane
Grand Island, Florida 32735

nb-2-9-3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF — File Number: 2026 CP 1850

ALBERT P. NOVAK

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of Albert P. Novak, deceased, whose date of death was July 18, 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Lake County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is August 27, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

Patrick L. Smith
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 27044
179 North US Highway 27
Suite F
Clermont, Florida 34711
Telephone: (352) 204-0305
Fax: (352) 989-4265
E-Mail: patrick@attorneypatricksmith.com
Secondary E-Mail: becky@attorneypatricksmith.com

Personal Representative:

Cecelia M. Novak
2233 Fenton Avenue
Clermont, Florida 34711

nb-2-9-3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 5TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

KNIGHT LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., a Florida non-profit Corporation,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GREGORY S. HARDING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF GREGORY S. HARDING, et al.,

Defendant(s).

CASE NUMBER: 35-2024-CA-001596-AXXX-01

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Amended Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated August 10, 2026, entered in Case No. 35-2024-CA-001596-AXXX-01 in the Circuit Court in and for Lake County, Florida wherein KNIGHT LAKE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC., is Plaintiff, and GREGORY S. HARDING, et al, is the Defendant, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash on: OCTOBER 13, 2026 conducted at the Lake County Courthouse, 550 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida 32778 at 11:00 A.M. in the Jury Room on the 1st floor, after first given notice as required by Section 45.031, Florida Statutes, the following described real property as set forth in the Final Judgment, to wit:

LOT 48, KNIGHT LAKE ESTATES, AS PER PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 61, PAGES 57, 58 AND 59, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

A/K/A: 15155 ZENITH AVENUE, MASCOTTE, FLORIDA 34753 .

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED.

Dated this 12TH day of August, 2026.

Gary J Cooney
As Clerk of Court

By: Shain Renkeim
As Deputy Clerk

nb-2-9-3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: FORFEITURE OF APPROXIMATELY 0.02316281 BTC CRYPTOCURRENCIES WITHIN COINBASE

CASE NUMBER: 2026-CA-000962
Agency Case Number: 260010883

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE COMPLAINT

TO: COINBASE; SHIRLEY RICHARDSON; and, All parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property herein described.

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that on April 27, 2026, PEYTON C. GRINNELL, in his official capacity as THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF, for Lake County, Florida filed the above styled forfeiture action against the above-described property in the Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Florida, in and for Lake County, which was seized on March 13, 2026, pursuant to a criminal investigation for offenses occurring in Lake County, Florida. An Order finding probable cause was issued by the Court on March 27, 2026. A copy of the aforementioned Complaint and Order are on file at the Office of the Clerk of the Courts for Lake County, Florida, and are available for examination during regular business hours.

YOU ARE REQUIRED to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the Complaint and Order finding Probable Cause upon Lindsay C.T. Holt, General Counsel for the Lake County Sheriff, whose address is 380 W. Alfred Street, Tavares, Florida 32778, and file the Original with the Clerk of Court, Lake County, Florida. Failure to file and serve such pleadings may result in the entry of a Default pursuant to Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.550, and a Final Order of Forfeiture.

This notice shall be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the North Lake Outpost.

Lindsay C.T. Holt, Esq., General Counsel
Lake County Sheriff's Office
380 W. Alfred Street
Tavares, FL 32778

Publish Dates: August 27, 2026 and September 3, 2026.

nb-2-9-3

NOTICE UNDER FICTITIOUS NAME LAW PURSUANT
TO SECTION 865.09, FLORIDA STATUTES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of

COOL TIME ICE CREAM TRUCK

located at 30359 Emerald Forest Drive, in the County of Lake, in the City of Mount Dora, Florida, 32757, intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

Dated at Mount Dora, Florida, this 31 day of August, 2026.

GEORGE BROWN

b-1-9-3

Notice of Intent
Clerk of Circuit Court
Lake County

The Clerk of Circuit Court provides public notice of the intent to include the following position in the Florida Retirement System's Senior Management Service Class effective October 1, 2026:

Director of Court Operations

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF — File Number 2026-CP-001396

ALICE MAE ALIMONTI,

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of ALICE MAE ALIMONTI, deceased, whose date of death MARCH 15, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for LAKE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Lake County Courthouse, 550 West Main Street, Suite 8, Tavares, Florida 32778. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes.

The date of first publication of this notice is September 3, 2026.

/s/ Kenneth Wade Boyette, Jr.
KENNETH WADE BOYETTE, JR.
Florida Bar Number 0977111
BOYETTE, CUMMINS & NAILOS, PLLC
8564 East CR 466, Suite 306
The Villages, Florida 32162
Phone: 352-775-4739
Fax: 352-775-4749
Email: wboyette@bcnlawfirm.com
cjensen@bcnlawfirm.com

/s/ David Odell
DAVID ODELL

nb-2-9-10

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CIVIL DIVISION

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JENNIFER FERMIN-SOLON; DILCIA FERMIN; JOSE R. FERMIN; THE CASCADES OF GROVELAND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JENNIFER FERMIN-SOLON; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED,

Defendant(s).

CASE NUMBER: 352024CA001079AXXX01

RE-NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 45

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Summary Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 20, 2026, and an Order Resetting Sale dated July 31, 2026 and entered in Case No. 352024CA001079AXXX01 of the Circuit Court in and for Lake County, Florida, wherein LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC is Plaintiff and JENNIFER FERMIN-SOLON; DILCIA FERMIN; JOSE R. FERMIN; THE CASCADES OF GROVELAND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JENNIFER FERMIN-SOLON; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 1; UNKNOWN TENANT NO. 2; and ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING INTERESTS BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST A NAMED DEFENDANT TO THIS ACTION, OR HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY HEREIN DESCRIBED, are Defendants, I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at the First Floor Information Desk, at the Lake County Judicial Center, 550 West Main Street, Tavares, Florida, at 11:00 a.m., on September 15, 2026, the following described property as set forth in said Order or Final Judgment, to-wit:

LOT 209, CASCADES OF GROVELAND - PHASE 5, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 68, PAGES 19 THROUGH 24, INCLUSIVE, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM BEFORE THE CLERK REPORTS THE SURPLUS AS UNCLAIMED. THE COURT, IN ITS DESCRETION, MAY ENLARGE THE TIME OF THE SALE. NOTICE OF THE CHANGED TIME OF SALE SHALL BE PUBLISHED AS PROVIDED HEREIN.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Clerk of the Court not later than five business days prior to the proceeding at the Lake County Judicial Center. Telephone 352-742-4100 or 1-800-955-8770 via Florida Relay Service.

DATED at Tavares, Florida, on August 11, 2026.

GARY J COONEY
As Clerk, Circuit Court

By: /s/ K. Linares
As Deputy Clerk

Diaz Anselmo & Associates, P.A.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Post Office BOX 19519
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33318
Telephone: (954) 564-0071
Service E-mail: answers@dallegal.com

1475-202383 / GS1

nb-2-9-3

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION

IN RE: ESTATE OF — CASE NUMBER: 2026-CP-001913

CHARLES AQUILLA LUCAS, JR.,

Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of CHARLES AQUILLA LUCAS, JR., deceased, whose date of death was June 6, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for LAKE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 7800, Tavares, Florida 32778. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.

ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.

The date of first publication of this notice is September 3, 2026.

Attorney for Personal Representative:

/s/ Michael J. Rogers
MICHAEL J. ROGERS, ESQUIRE
Florida Bar Number: 0009441
GAYLORD & ROGERS LLC
804 North Bay Street
Post Office Drawer 2047
Eustis, Florida 32727-2047
Telephone: (352) 483-4888
Fax: (352) 483-0732
leona@gaylordrogers.com
mike@gaylordrogers.com

Personal Representative:

/s/ Bonnie Susan Schrowang
BONNIE SUSAN SCHROWANG
15934 Hanson View Drive
Tavares, Florida 32778

nb-2-9-10

EUSTIS SAVER SELF-STORAGE
2910 KURT STREET
EUSTIS, FLORIDA 32726
352-251-0016

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Public Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Florida Statute 83.806, the contents of the following self-storage unit(s) will be sold at public auction to satisfy the lien of the owner for unpaid rental charges and fees. The personal property is located at Saver Self Storage 2910 Kurt Street, Eustis Florida 32726. The property included may contain: Household Goods, Furniture, Toys, Clothes, Personal Items, Electronics, Appliances, and Other Misc. The public sale will be held at www.bid13.com at 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2026. The owner reserves the right to withdraw any property or cancel the sale at any time before the auction closes.

Brandon Nieves Unit 1044

Patricia Jones Unit 1281

Rex Watkins Unit 2022

America... cont'd

politician. Even Hobbes [a supporter of a strong central gov't] would blush to own the author for a disciple. He unites the violence of a republican with all the folly of a fanatic…I think it a duty which I owe to God, to my King and country, to counteract in this manner the poison it contains.[5] If one were riding the fence on whether or not to choose independence and were swayed to Paine's desire for independence, and then read Reverend Inglis' pamphlet, it would have been hard not to return to reconciliation with the king, as his arguments are equally strongly toned.

Inglis' 71-page pamphlet concludes with: "But if America should now mistake her real interest--if her sons,… should adopt this republican's scheme: They will infallibly destroy this smiling prospect. They will dismember this happy country---make it a scene of blood and slaughter, and entail wretchedness and misery on millions yet unborn. Quod Deus a nobis procul avertat" [May God forbid it]. [6] Powerful and graphic words, but this is one of many examples of pastors preaching politics 'from the pulpit' during the days of our founding and afterward. The Founders did not want the government to influence or demand a particular religion, but they welcomed religion's input on government. Recall Washington in his 1796 farewell address stating, "Religion and morality are indispensable supports for national prosperity and a free government… And let us with caution indulge the supposition [belief] that morality can be maintained without religion."[7]

On March 19, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail about "Common Sense" and stated that Paine's "Notions, and Plans of Continental Government are not much applauded. Indeed this Writer has a better Hand at pulling down than building… This Writer seems to have very inadequate Ideas of what is proper and necessary to be done, in order to form Constitutions for single Colonies, as well as a great Model of Union for the whole."[8] Several months afterward, John Adams wrote an anonymous pamphlet at the request of the North Carolina delegates on his idea of an ideal government, but it was also a rebuttal to "Common Sense" titled, "Thoughts on Government: Applicable to the Present State of the American Colonies. In a Letter from a Gentleman to His Friend"[9] Paine had opted for a government with a unicameral [single] legislation body, but Adams wrote six counters to that form of government: "A single assembly is liable to all the vices, follies, and frailties of an individual…,apt to be avaricious [greedy]…, apt to grow ambitious, and after a time will not hesitate to vote itself perpetual..., is unfit to exercise the executive power…, still less qualified for the judicial power; because it is too numerous, too slow, and too little skilled in the laws…, would make arbitrary laws for their own interest, execute all laws arbitrarily for their own interest, and adjudge all controversies in their own favor."[10] Adams argued for three bodies of government and explains his rationale in detail. The specifics are worth reading and are available at the footnoted site.

One of the more interesting aspects of Adams' pamphlet was his desire that elected representatives serve and step down. "…for our immediate security,…elections, especially of Representatives, and Councillors, should be annual, there not being in the whole circle of the sciences, a maxim more infallible than this, 'Where annual elections end, there slavery begins.' These great men, in this respect, should be, once a year 'Like bubbles on the sea of matter borne, They rise, they break, and to that sea return.' This will teach them the great political virtues of humility, patience, and moderation, without which every man in power becomes a ravenous beast of prey."[11] If one had lived through the tyranny of an unresponsive lifelong king, it is hard to disagree with his argument. What about our current lifelong career politicians? Adams' words make it clear why our elected federal politicians have not voted for their own term limits. What is surprising is that voters do not realize these career politicians do not have to term-limit themselves to be forced to vacate their elected positions. All elected politicians are term-limited every time their term expires – if the voters choose not to reelect them.

Years later, Adams became more vocal about his feelings of "Common Sense" as written by author Liell, "Finally--writing many years later and after Paine's death—he [Adams] derided [ridiculed] "Common Sense" simply as a 'poor, short-sighted crapulous [drunken] mass.'"[12]

As you can see, emotions ran high in 1776 on both sides, and they lasted well beyond the Revolutionary War. Despite his tremendous effect on our nation, Thomas Paine soon went from "Hero to Zero" in the eyes of the colonists—the reasons why will be for another column. Next week, we will return to our unknown Founding Father from Pennsylvania, James Smith.

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[1] https://americainclass.org/sources/makingrevolution/rebellion/text7/text7.htm
[2] Thomas R. Adams, "The Authorship and Printing of 'Plain Truth' by 'Candidus.'" The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America 49, no. 3 (1955): footnote 3, 230.
[3] https://archive.org/details/bim_eighteenth-century_deceiver-unmasked-the_inglis-charles-bishop-_1776/page/n69/mode/2up
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
[7] https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/washing.asp
[8] https://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17760319ja&bc=%2Fdigitaladams%2Farchive%2Fbrowse%2Fletters_JA.php
[9] https://archive.org/details/thoughtsongovern00adam/page/n5/mode/2up
[10] John Adams, Thoughts on Government (Philadelphia: Jon Dunlap, 1776), 11-13.
[11] Ibid., 17-18.
[12] Scott Liell, "46 Pages, Thomas Paine, 'Common Sense,' and the Turning Point to Independence" (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2003), 131.

Snook Recreational Harvest In All East Coast And Most West Coast Management Regions Opens September 1

The recreational harvest season for snook starts September 1 in all East Coast (Southeast, Indian River Lagoon and Northeast) and most West Coast (Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay) management regions. This includes all state and inland waters within each management region.

The management regions are part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) holistic approach for managing Florida's most popular inshore fisheries. This approach uses seven metrics to evaluate the fishery by region, allowing the FWC to be more responsive to local concerns.

The harvest season in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay management regions will remain open through November 30, with a bag limit of one fish per person per day and a slot limit of 28–33 inches total length.

Panhandle Boundaries: The western boundary is the Florida-Alabama border and the region extends to the eastern coastal boundary at 84°20.800□ West Longitude in Franklin County near Alligator Point. Does not include the Ochlockonee Bay or the Ochlockonee River and its tributaries.

Big Bend Boundaries: The western coastal boundary is 84°20.800□ West Longitude in Franklin County near Alligator Point. The region extends east and south to Fred Howard Park, near the border of Pasco and Pinellas counties. Includes all waters of the Ochlockonee, Withlacoochee and Anclote rivers and their tributaries.

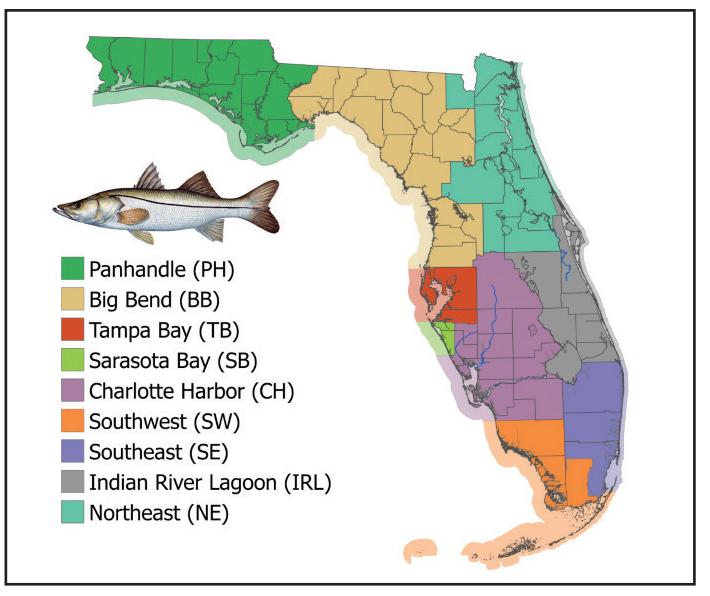
Tampa Bay Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is Fred Howard Park, near the border of Pasco and Pinellas counties and the region extends south to State Road 64 in Manatee County. Includes all waters of the Alafia, Braden, Manatee, and Hillsborough rivers and their tributaries. Does not include Palma Sola Bay or the Anclote River and its tributaries.

Sarasota Bay Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is State Road 64 in Manatee County, and the region extends south to 27°04.727' North Latitude, near the Venice Municipal Airport. Includes all waters of Palma Sola Bay, Phillippi Creek, Cow Pen Slough Canal and Curry Creek. Does not include the Braden and Manatee rivers.

The harvest season in the Southeast, Indian River Lagoon and Northeast management regions will remain open through December 14, with a bag limit of one fish per person per day and a slot limit of 28–32 inches total length.

Southeast Boundaries: The northern boundary is the Martin-Palm Beach county line and the region extends south to the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line. Includes all waters of Hillsboro Canal, Miami Canal, North New River Canal, and West Palm Beach Canal, and the Loxahatchee River and its tributaries. Does not include Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park.

Indian River Lagoon Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is located at Lytle Avenue/South Causeway in New Smyrna Beach and the region extends south to the Martin-Palm Beach county line. Includes all waters of the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. Does not include the Loxahatchee or St. Johns rivers and their tributaries.



Northeast Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is located at the Florida-Georgia border and the region extends south to the Lytle Avenue/South Causeway in New Smyrna Beach. Includes all waters of the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Does not include the Withlacoochee or Kissimmee rivers, Cypress Lake, and lakes Hatchineha and Kissimmee.

For more information on recreational snook regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Snook. This page includes the snook annual reviews, which provide summaries of key findings from the annual evaluation of management metrics for each region.

Lake Technical College Named 2026 Best of Florida Regional Award Winner

Lake Technical College has been named a 2026 Best of Florida Regional Award winner, a milestone recognition arriving as the college celebrates its 60th anniversary.

The honor underscores Lake Tech's core mission to serve as an integral component of economic growth and development across local communities by delivering high-quality career-education and training opportunities. A premier public institution dedicated to workforce development and adult education, the college combines hands-on instruction with strong local employer partnerships to offer over 30 fast-track career certificate programs in high-demand fields including healthcare, public safety, manufacturing, transportation, hospitality, IT, and more.

Driven by industry-expert instructors and strong local employer partnerships, Lake Tech empowers students to gain real-world skills and build successful, high-wage careers with minimal debt. The college's student-first approach translates to outstanding outcomes across its career-technical education programs, achieving a 100 percent licensure pass rate, a 90 percent program completion rate, and an 86 percent job placement rate.

"Earning a 2026 Best of Florida Regional Award during our 60th anniversary year is a powerful testament to the impact our students, faculty, and industry partners make every day," said DeAnna Thomas, President of Lake Technical College. "Our mission remains focused on providing accessible, high-quality training that leads directly to meaningful careers, driving economic growth and development throughout the communities we serve."

To meet growing workforce demands, the college provides accessible learning options across multiple convenient regional locations. Operations span the Main Campus in Eustis, specialized facilities in Tavares—including the Institute of Public Safety, the Transportation Innovation Hub, and Veterinary Assisting—and the newest expansion, the Lake Technical College South campus in Clermont. In addition to technical programs, Lake Tech extends educational access throughout Lake and Sumter Counties by offering comprehensive adult education classes in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and GED® test preparation.

For more information about Lake Technical College, its award-winning programs, or enrollment opportunities, visit www.laketech.org or contact Admissions at 352.589.2250.

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT CIVIL COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR LAKE COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR LEGACY MORTGAGE ASSET TRUST 2020-GS1
Plaintiff,

Case Number: 2020-CA-001954

vs.

JERRY HIMES AKA JERRY L. HIMES, DESPINA HIMES AKA DESPINA V. HIMES, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND UNKNOWN TENANTS/OWNERS,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure for Plaintiff entered in this cause on June 10, 2022, in the Circuit Court of Lake County, Florida, Gary J. Cooney, Clerk of the Circuit Court, will sell the property situated in Lake County, Florida described as:

LOTS 27 AND 28, LESS THE WEST 6 FEET THEREOF, IN HANNUM HEIGHTS TOPSIDE SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF EUSTIS FLORIDA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 68, PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

and commonly known as: 1302E CROOKED LAKE DRIVE, EUSTIS, FLORIDA 32726; including the building, appurtenances, and fixtures located therein, at public sale, to the highest and best bidder, for cash, in the lobby of the first floor of the Lake County Judicial Center, 550 West Main Street, Tavares, on October 27, 2026 at 11:00 A.M..

Any persons claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim before the clerk reports the surplus as unclaimed.

Dated this 31 day of August, 2026.

Clerk of the
Circuit Court

Gary J. Cooney
By: /s/ D. Davis
Deputy Clerk

nb-2-9-10

PURE COUNTRY UMATILLA WUFR 102.7 FM
www.purecountryumatilla.com

"I am the Lord your God; you shall not have any other gods before me."



ALTOONA

Church O'The Forest / 43714 Hwy 19
Sunday Services 11:00 am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Altoona
42226 SR 19 • Altoona, FL 32702 / (352) 669-2806
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Worship 10:55 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 6:00 pm

SAC / 25000 SE Hwy 42 Umatilla, 5 miles W of Altoona
Pastor Billy Bailey / (352) 325-7744
Sunday Worship 10:00 am
Coffee Bar

Altoona Methodist Church / Hwy 19
Pastor: Dr. John Irwin / (352) 669-3644
Bible Study: Tuesday 3 pm / Thursday 5:30 pm
Sunday Worship & Children's Chapel 9:30 am

Deliverance And Faith Ministry
Pastor Ronnie King / 44830 SR 19
Sunday Services 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wednesday Services 6:30 pm

APOPKA

St. Mary Protectress Ukrainian Catholic Church
305 Lake McCoy Dr. Apopka, 32712 / (386) 848-9888
Mass service, English 9:00 am
Mass service, Ukrainian 11:00 am

ASTOR

First Baptist Church of Astor / SR 40
Pastor: Justin Benson / (352) 759-3899
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Evening Service, Wednesday 7:00 pm

St. Hubert's Roman Catholic Mission
5560 Veterans Dr. / (352) 759-3983
Father Peter Latouf
Sunday Mass 11:00 am
Thursday Prayers/Bible Study 9:30 am

CASSIA

Cassia Baptist Church
Pastors Mark Douglas & Joshua Douglas
36944 Cassia Church Rd / (352) 805-9176
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Meal 6:00 pm
Mon, & Wed. Bible Study 7:00 pm

DeLAND

Liberty Independent Baptist Church / (386) 736-7412
1365 W.Plymouth Ave. / Pastor Slade Rickels
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Service 11:00 am
Evening Service 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

Temple Israel of DeLand /Rabbi Reuven Silverman
1001 E. New York Avenue • DeLand, FL 32724
(386) 736-1646 / TempleIsraelofdeland.org
Shabbat Services / Friday 7:00 pm
Shabbat prayers & Torah discussion &
Kiddush/Saturday 10:00 am

DEERHAVEN

Community of Christ, Community Building
47400 Northwest Avenue / (386) 801-8942
Pastorate: Barbara Shreve
Don Winship - Elder
Worship 11:00 am

DONA VISTA

Pentecostal Lighthouse/ 37651 Hwy 19, Dona Vista
Pastor Jerry Conner
Sunday Services: 10:30 am, 6:00 pm
Tuesday Evening 7:00 pm

The Church at Whistling Pines/ (352) 589-9622
16311 Whistling Pines Road • www.whistlingpines.org
Shawn McCracken, Lead Pastor
Sunday Coffee 9:30 am
Sunday Worship & Teaching 10:00 am

Victory Church, Pastor Toby Cox
37240 State Road 19
Sunday: Coffee, Doughnuts & Fellowship 9:00 am
Sunday: Service 9:30 am
Wednesday: Adult Bible Study 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Food Pantry: 3rd Thursday monthly 9:00 am-11:00 am
Join us live Sundays! https://Facebook.com/victorychristianonline/live

EUSTIS

Bay Street Baptist Church
37181 N SR 19 / (352) 589-5838
Rev. Luke Raczykowski, Sr. Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 10:45 am
Wednesday Activities Begin 6:00 pm

Eustis Church of the Nazarene /480 CR 44 W
Pastor Bob • (352) 602-4947
Sunday Bible Study Classes (All Ages) 9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am

Faith Lutheran Church /Rev. Marc Kappel
2727 S. Grove Street • (352) 589-5433
Saturday Contemporary 5:00 pm
Sunday Traditional Worship 10:00 am
Sunday School/Bible Study (all ages) 8:45 am

First Church of God, 1550 Hwy 19 North
Rev. James Irving - (352) 800-1873
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Eustis
Rev. Dr. Michael Foley (Interim)
117 S. Center Street / (352) 357-2833
Chapel Study Group Music & Scripture Study in Chapel 8:00 am
Fellowship & Coffee in Gathering Place 9:45 - 10:15 am
First United Worship in Sanctuary; Heartfelt Worship based in Scripture
10:30 - 11:45 am

First United Methodist Church / (352) 357-5830
600 S. Grove St. / Pastor: Rev. Jay Kowalski
Sunday Worship Service (in Sturm Chapel) 10:30 am

Grace Baptist (SBC) / East SR 44
Bible Study: Sunday 9:30 am
Worship Celebration 10:45 am
Sunday Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Service 6:00 pm

Lake Eustis Christian Church / (352) 589-2235
315 E. Orange Avenue / Minister Brent Elliott
Sunday Services 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am
Bible School Classes for All Ages 9:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study for All Ages 6:30 pm

Life Community Church / (352) 483-8877
Pastor John Schneck / LCCEustis.com
Sunday Life Groups 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Gathering 10:10 am
Wednesday SeniorLife 10:00 am
Wednesday Life Groups 6:30 pm

LifePointe Church www.lifepointechurch.me
3551 E. Orange Ave, Eustis / (352) 357-5663
Sunday Life Groups 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday Activities for All Ages 6:00 pm
Rev. Jonathan Pearson
Facebook: @LifePointeChurch.me

Lighthouse Baptist Church / (352) 383-3838
18530 SR 44 / Pastor Michael Watkins
Sunday School 9:45 am
Morning Srv., Jr.Church, Children's Church 11:00 am
Sunday Evening6:00 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study & King's Kids 7:00 pm

Spirit Life Assembly of God /(352) 483-3011
2024 S. Grove Street (corner of Grove & Idlewild)
Sunday Worship 9:30 am & 11:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Nursery is provided for all service times.

St. Andrews Orthodox Church /Hwy. 19
Father Casian Dunlap
Vespers Wed. & Sat. 6:00 pm
Sunday, Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church/ (352) 483-3500
218 Ocklawaha Ave./ Frather Carlos Bedoya
Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 pm
Sunday English 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Spanish 12:00 pm
Daily Mass Monday - Friday 8:00 am
Tuesday Spanish 6:30 pm
Holy Days English 8:00 am & 4:00 pm
Spanish 7:00 pm

St. Thomas Episcopal Church / (352) 357-4358
600 Lemon Avenue • www.stthomaseustis.org
Rector: Fr. Matthew Perreault
Sunday Services 9:30 am
Coffee and Conversation 10:45 am
Wednesday Healing Service 10:00 am
Morning Prayer (Mon.-Thurs.): 8:30 am

Victory Baptist Church / (352) 589-9227
1309 CR 452 / Pastor Tim Maness
Sunday School 9:45 am
Services: 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Wed. Night Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills United Methodist Church
CR 42, Forest Hills / Layman Charles "Smoky" Clary
Sunday School 10:00 am
Services 11:00 am

MOUNT DORA

St. Philip Lutheran Church ELCA
1050 Boyd Drive / Pastor Trixie Richter 352-383-5402
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Wed. Next Season of Life Senior Center 9:00 am
Facebook: @stphiliplc www.stphiliplc.com

The Cross
4425 County Road 19A / (352) 602-4635
Sunday Worship 9 am, 11 am
Email: info@thecross.family

PAISLEY

Covenant Christian Center / E. CR 44A
Sunday Services 9:30 am & 7:30 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Paisley
25145 Fisherman's Road / (352) 669-6221
Dr. Howard John Roszak, Pastor
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Wednesday Family Night 6:30 pm-7:30 pm
Email: fbcpaisley@gmail.com
Facebook: First Baptist Church of Paisley

The Paisley Church
24980 CR 42 / (352) 455-3883
Pastor Jan Michael Vandermark
Sunday School Classes 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Bible Study 2:00 pm

Impact Paisley Christian Church
25330 CR 42 / (352) 589-2235
Sunday Worship/ (Meal 5:30 pm) 6:00 pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study / (Meal 6:30 pm) 7:00 pm
Facebook: @impactpaisley

PIERSON

Ebenezer Lutheran Church
139 S. Volusia Ave. / (386) 749-2676
Pastor Mark Winkler
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

Emporia Baptist Church
403 Emporia Rd / (386) 749-0011
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Worship 7:00 pm

Pierson Global Methodist Church
136 W. 2nd Avenue / (386) 749-4391
Pastor Rico Vespa
Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship Service 11:00 am

San Jose Roman Catholic Mission
165 Emporia Road / (386) 749-9372
Sunday: Spanish Mass 8:00 am
English Mass 9:00 am

PINE LAKES

First Baptist Church of Pine Lakes
31932 Huff Road / (352) 589-7700
Rev. Benjamin Barrack
Sunday School 9:20 am
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 pm
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

SORRENTO

First Baptist Church of Sorrento
Pastor Chris Hall / (352) 383-2241
fbcoffice@centurylink.net
Sunday School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:45 am
Wednesday Evening Service 7:00 pm

Reach Church
31431 Payne Road / 352-735-5050
Pastor Kevin Hale
Sunday Service 10:00 am
Tuesday: Youth (6th-8th Grade) 6:30 pm
Wed.: Ladies Bible Study 9:00 am/ Survey of the Bible 6:30 pm

UMATILLA

Bethel AME
38623 Church St. / (352) 669-3949

Calvary Chapel of the Lakes
250 Guerrant Street / (352) 508-1010
www.ccotl.org
Pastor Doug Teel
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

First Baptist Church of Umatilla (SBC)
550 Hatfield Drive / (352) 669-3214
Pastor Brooks Braswell - Office@FBCU.church
Sunday Worship 9:00 & 10:45 am
All Sunday School 9:00 & 10:45 am
Wednesdays: AWANA 6:30 pm
Youth 6:30 pm
Men & Women's Bible Studies 6:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Umatilla
Reverend Dr. Hershel Don Yancey
493 Kentucky Avenue / (352) 669-2334
Sunday School 9:45 am
Sunday Services 11:00 am
Tuesday, Woman's Bible Study 1:00 pm
First Sunday Communion

Jerusalem Worship Center
98 Orange Lane / (352) 669-6011

Piney Grove Baptist
38509 Church St. / (352) 669-5249

Life Changing Church of God
38741 Pine St. (352) 669-4796

Umatilla Church Of God/ 463 Umatilla Blvd.
352-669-7301 / umatillacog@yahoo.com
Pastor Davy Cannon
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 pm

Umatilla Seventh-Day Adventist Church
1400 N. Central Avenue / (352) 669-6630
Pastor Robert Putt
Saturday Sabbath School, Adults & Children 9:15 am
Community Bible Study 9:30 am
Saturday Church Service 10:50 am
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 2:00 pm

Thank You!

CENTRAL FLORIDA DOG HUNTERS, INC.
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE
PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
MEMBER

The Central Florida Dog Hunters, Inc. would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to all of our sponsors, volunteers, and dinner guests who supported our recent BBQ. The event, again held at Doe Lake this year, was a big success. It wouldn't be possible without all of the many supporters who give of their time and resources. Thank you all for the generous support!











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