

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition Friday, May 13, 2022

What's In The Tax Package Governor Desantis Just Signed?

Florida's legislative session was marked by grueling fights over abortion, transgender issues and other topics of the nation's "culture wars." But one major piece of legislation received bipartisan praise and unanimous votes: a series of temporary tax breaks the state is promoting as its biggest ever. Last week Governor Ron DeSantis signed the tax package into law, touting first-time sales tax breaks for all sorts of essential and recreational items. The state's sales tax is 6 percent, but many of the items are exempt from county sales taxes as well.

"You're gonna' see breaks for really critical needs, like gas, diapers, disaster supplies, tools for skilled trades, recreational activities, you name it," DeSantis said last Friday. "Families are going to be able to save for things that really matter for them."

Here are the major tax cuts and exemptions lawmakers passed this year, in the order they take effect. For additional details, visit the Florida Department of Revenue's website, <https://Floridarevenue.com>.

1. Children's books: May 14 - Aug. 14

For three months, children's books, regardless of the price, will be exempt from sales taxes. "Children's books" are defined as "any fiction or nonfiction book primarily intended for children age 12 or younger."

2. Disaster preparedness supplies: May 28 - June 10

The state's annual two-week disaster preparedness tax holiday continues this year with a slew of items exempt from state and county sales taxes, including:

- Flashlights and lanterns worth \$40 or less
- A package of batteries worth \$50 or less
- Coolers worth \$60 or less
- Portable generators worth \$1,000 or less
- Various pet supplies

The Department of Revenue has a full list of items at <https://Floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/Documents>.

3. 'Freedom Week' sales tax holiday: July 1 - 7, 2022

For a week, tickets to live sporting and music events, movies, museums, state parks and festivals will be tax-free. So will a variety of outdoor supplies, including:

- The first \$250 on the sales price of bicycles and outdoor grills
- Various fishing supplies, including reels and rods

- The first \$200 spent on tents
- The first \$150 spent on residential pool and spa chemicals

The state has a complete list of items at <https://Floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents>.

4. Children's diapers, clothing and shoes: July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023.

An idea proposed by Democrats in the Legislature for years, Republicans this year agreed to a one-year sales tax exemption for children's diapers. Another exemption makes baby and toddler clothing, apparel and shoes primarily intended for children age 5 or younger tax-free during the same period.

5. Impact-resistant windows, doors and garage doors: July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2024

For two years, these items will be exempt from sales tax for both commercial and non-commercial use.

6. Energy Star appliances: July 1, 2022 — June 30, 2023

The following Energy Star-labeled items are exempt from sales tax if they're purchased for non-commercial use:

- Clothes dryers selling for \$1,500 or less
- Refrigerators or combination refrigerator/freezers selling for \$3,000 or less
- Washing machines selling for \$1,500 or less
- Water heaters selling for \$1,500 or less

7. Back-to-school sales tax holiday: July 25 — Aug. 7, 2022

Lawmakers renewed the annual sales tax holiday for school supplies this year with the following items exempt:

- Clothing, footwear and certain accessories with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Certain school supplies with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Learning aids and jigsaw puzzles with a sales price of \$30 or less
- Personal computers and certain computer-related accessories with a sales price of \$1,500 or less, when purchased for noncommercial home or personal use

The state has a complete list of items at <https://Floridarevenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents>.

New Tax Package, cont.

8. Skilled worker tools sales tax holiday: Sept. 3 — Sept. 9, 2022

This first-time tax holiday applies to the purchase of a variety of tools and supplies, including:

- Toolboxes worth \$75 or less
- Work boots selling for \$175 or less per pair
- Power tools selling for \$300 or less per item

The state has a complete list of items at <https://Florida.revenue.com/taxes/tips/Documents>.

9. Gas tax suspension: Oct. 1 — Oct. 31, 2022

To alleviate record-high gas prices, lawmakers this year agreed to suspend collection of the state's gas tax for a month. Suspending collection of the gas tax means motorists will save about \$0.25 per gallon, or about \$1 billion in total. State lawmakers are plugging that hole with federal coronavirus stimulus dollars assigned by Congress.

10. Grand Prix tickets, property tax exemptions for widowers, etc.

The tax package, House Bill 7071, also includes many other tax exemptions, including:

- A sales tax exemption for tickets to Formula One Grand Prix races
- An increase in property exempt from taxation for residents who are widows, widowers, blind or totally and permanently disabled from \$500 to \$5,000.
- A sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used to produce energy from burning hydrogen, which could save the state's largest utility, Florida Power & Light, an estimated \$300,000 per year on a new plant in Okeechobee.

Lunar Eclipse

A lunar eclipse occurs when the moon moves into Earth's shadow. During a total lunar eclipse, the moon appears to turn "blood red" as it gets deeper into the shadow. This happens when sunlight passes through particles in Earth's atmosphere and become scattered, which is also what gives sunsets their color. Because red and orange have longer-than-average wavelengths on the color spectrum, they tend to pass through the atmosphere rather than scatter away. That color is then refracted onto the moon's surface.

Last year we got close to a total lunar eclipse as two nearly total lunar eclipses were visible from Central Florida. Only a small sliver of the moon went unmasked by the Earth's shadow. But this year we will be treated to two total lunar eclipses. The first will be Sunday night, May 15, (and Monday early morning).

The Penumbral Eclipse (first shadow) will start at 9:32 p.m. Totality, when the moon appears blood red, will begin at 11:29 p.m. and will last until 12:53 a.m. the next morning.



Parrish Healthcare Hosts Stroke & Heart Attack Survivors Support Group

Parrish Healthcare's Stroke & Heart Survivors support group occurs the third Tuesday of every month from 2-4 p.m. inside Parrish Medical Center's Heritage Hall, 921 North Washington Ave., Titusville. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17. There is no cost to attend. Seating is limited. Call 321-268-6111, ext. 8805 to make a reservation or visit the Stroke & Heart Survivors support group page here.

The weight of surviving a sudden traumatic health event such as a heart attack or stroke is more easily borne when others are helping you to carry the emotional load. That's the benefit of support groups like Parrish Healthcare's Stroke & Heart Survivors support group—members benefit from sharing experiences and knowing that they are not alone.

"These groups can be life-changing," said Parrish Healthcare Social Worker Janet Rooks, who leads the group. "I've seen many situations in which people who were reluctant or hesitant to participate found themselves learning important new ways to help them live better lives and making friends with others going through similar situations."

Rooks holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree and a master's degree in counseling. Rooks facilitates several support groups and is the coordinator for popular senior educational programs for Parrish Healthcare.

"Support group members gain much from our sessions; all that's necessary to take advantage of a support group is to come to the meetings," added Rooks.

For more information, visit the Stroke & Heart Survivors support group page at:

<https://www.parrishhealthcare.com/events-calendar/event-details/?Event=27934>.

Be Health Aware

Practice healthy habits like early preventive care screenings and routine checkups. You'll have better control of your quality of life now and well into the future. It's not always easy staying on top of your health, but doing so can improve your life.

Men are more likely to have chronic diseases that result in life-altering complications that could be prevented with early detection.

But it's simple. Healthy habits can influence the rest of your life. Managing your health alongside your provider through early screenings and routine checkups will allow you to provide longer for those who depend on you.

Take your free health risk assessment today at: www.parrishhealthcare.com/healthaware.

Port St. John Housewives Softball League Registration

The Port St. John Housewives Softball League is gearing up for another fun season! Don't let the name fool you...women of all playing abilities are invited to join our league. This is a great way to make friends and get some exercise.

**Sign-ups will be on Saturdays and Sundays,
May 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd from 10:00 a.m.
to 2:00 p.m. at Fay Park, east parking lot.**

The player fee for 2022 is \$50, which includes approximately 20 softball games, team shirt and end of year party and awards.

As of July 1st, you must be 19 years of age or older. You do not have to live in Port St. John to join our league. The season starts in July and continues through mid-October. Games are on Tuesday and Thursday nights at Fay Park.

For more information, call: Veronica Ordner, President, at 321-698-3863; Kim Myrick, Vice-President, at 321-536-1372; Angie Burris, Treasurer, at 321-480-1052; or Joan Sottoriva, Secretary, at 321-537-9605.

We are also accepting applications for sponsors and experienced umpires. You can also find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/PSJHSL.

Port St. John Public Library

6500 Carole Ave., Port St. John
321-633-1867

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 12-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m..

All Brevard County libraries will be closed on Monday, May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

Meeting rooms are available for reservation by calling the library and study rooms are open on a first-come-first-served basis.

Computers are available, and we also offer scanning, wireless printing and faxing.

5/14 & 5/28 10 a.m.-noon: Pokemon Club of Port St. John. All ages welcome.

5/21: Community Baby Shower. See Youth Services desk for more information!

5/25 6 p.m.: Friends of the Port St. John Library Membership meeting.

Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m.: Humanatee Yoga for Beginners or Intermediate. \$5 Instructor Fee.

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.: Storytime for Young Readers. Ages 6-12.

Fridays 10:30 a.m.: Little Listeners storytime. Ages 2-5.

There will be no story times the last two weeks of May as we prepare for the Summer Reading Program!

Mad Science Saturday Presents

"The Power of Air"

May 14, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



We hold FREE hands-on "Mad Science" educational workshops for kids on the 2nd Saturday of each month with 3 identical sessions starting at 10 a.m., Noon, and 2 p.m. Geared toward students in grades 3-5, each STEAM* discipline is explored in a way that relates to space exploration. These approximately 1 hour workshops are designed to be FUN and EDUCATIONAL!

The May 2022 theme is "The Power of Air", where we will study air pressure, air density, sound waves and vacuum. Students will be working with a visual sound generator and experimenting with a vacuum chamber. We will be demonstrating the power of a vacuum, how and why sound waves change pitch and volume, how sound waves affect physical objects, and every student will get to build an "Air Cannon." For full info and registration, please visit <https://spacewalkoffame.org/event/mad-science-may-2022>.

Each session is limited to 12 students and REQUIRES PRE-REGISTRATION. FREE for kids. We also offer accompanying adults a \$5 half price museum admission if they want to stay and tour the museum while their child is in the workshop. These are STEAM* based, hands on workshops. Students will learn about the influence of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math on the way things work in the universe and in everyday life. *STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math - (STEM with Art added).

It will be lots of fun, as well as educational and it's FREE. Classes are limited to 12 children per class, so please register soon at <https://spacewalkoffame.org/register> to reserve a spot soon.

For more information, please contact the American Space Museum at 321-264-0434. The address of the museum is 308 Pine Street, Titusville.

American Space Museum & U.S. Space Walk of Fame Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for public tours.

Enchanted Forest Sanctuary

May Events

Pine Needle Basket Making - Saturday, May 14th 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come join Yvette Flis for a class on making pine needle baskets. Registration required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. Limited spots available.

Sanctuary School *New time* - Wednesday, May 18th 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Geared towards ages 6 through 12. Theme: Animal Life Cycles. Registration required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Garden Workday - Saturday, May 21st 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Grab your hat, sunblock and water and come help maintain the butterfly garden at the Sanctuary! Registration required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Garden Scavenger Hunt - Saturday, May 21st at 1 p.m. Join Lois Harris of the Sea Rocket Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a scavenger hunt in the gardens at the Sanctuary! Registration required. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Guided Hike – Magnolia Loop - Sunday, May. 22nd, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join our Naturalists for a guided hike on our Magnolia Loop trail. Please bring a hat, water, and walking shoes. Registration required no later than the day before the hike. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Reptile Talk and Encounter - Sunday, May 22nd at 1 p.m. Join Frank Robb, a local reptile expert, for a talk about reptiles! Registration required, please call 321-264-5185 to sign up.

Forest Funday - Sunday, May. 29th, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Join us for a fun day of crafts and information on Animal Life Cycles. Registration not required. If you have any questions please call 321-264-5185.

Tai Chi at the Forest - Every Saturday in May, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join instructor Kate Perez for a beginner level class on the porch! Loose-fitting clothing, masks and a water bottle are recommended. Registration required no later than the day before class, please call 321-264-5185.

Yoga in Nature - Every Sunday in May, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join local yoga instructors for a traditional class for all levels on the porch! Wear loose-fitting clothing and do not eat anything an hour before class. Bring water and a mat. Registration required no later than the day before class, Please call 321-264-5185. SPACE LIMITED. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Guided Hikes - Openings Every Sunday in May at 10:00 a.m. Enjoy a 45-minute guided hike. Please bring a hat, water and walking shoes. Registration required no later than the day before the hike. Please call 321-264-5185 to sign up. NO SAME DAY SIGN UPS.

Envy is a waste of time.

You already have all you need.



Titusville Playhouse Shows

Legally Blonde, The Musical

Rated PG-13. May 6 – May 29, 2022

A fabulously fun award-winning musical based on the adored film, Legally Blonde The Musical, follows the transformation of Elle Woods when her life is turned upside down after her boyfriend dumps her to attend Harvard Law. Determined to win him back, she ingeniously charms her way into the school where she struggles with her peers and professors. With the support of new friends, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

The Titusville Playhouse, Inc. is located within the Historic Emma Parrish Theatre 301 Julia St., (corner of Hopkins Ave. - US1 southbound), providing professional quality entertainment on the Space Coast. The MainStage theatre includes a 150 seat orchestra section and a 124 seat Balcony Section.

Budgeting Class

Join us to learn about better financial management in our Budgeting: Smart Choices, Smart Money class! This class is perfect for anyone wanting to improve their financial management skills. Learn money-saving strategies, effective budgeting methods, and more. It's time to take control of your money!

Our next class is on May 18, 2022, from 9 to 11 a.m. and is held at the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office in Cocoa. The cost of this class is \$10.

Register on Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/33IBOGF>

For more information, please call us at (321) 633-1702 or email brevard@ifas.ufl.edu.

*The weekly digital
edition of
HAPPENINGS
is sponsored by
Parrish Healthcare*

