



Farmers displaced for Trump club

INSIDE, 3A

YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE FOR LAKE AND SUMTER COUNTIES

DAILY COMMERCIAL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 | DAILYCOMMERCIAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Health in the Golden Years



As the nation's population grows older, exercise programs for seniors should focus on maximizing functional fitness — that is, the ability to do daily tasks of life, such as cleaning, vacuuming, carrying groceries, getting in and out of cars, negotiating curbs and stairs and other commonplace activities that can become compromised in elderly folks. GETTY IMAGES

Florida slipping as top place for retirees

Anne Geggis
Palm Beach Post
USA TODAY NETWORK

Florida, you might have heard, is a haven for retirees — but its reputation as a bastion for Bingo and early-bird specials is under threat.

The Sunshine State still reigns supreme among the other 49 for drawing the most people aged 60 and older from out of state, according to SmartAsset's 2025 study, which analyzed data from the 2023 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census. But that influx of

about 44,000 new Floridians found moving here every year is down about 40% from previous years, when Florida attracted nearly three times the number moving across state lines to the other popular destinations for older adults such as Arizona, North Carolina and South Carolina.

For Neil Koppel, 71, of Delray Beach, the decision to leave New York City to the place of his childhood vacations hit him like an oncoming car — actually a taxi — nearly did.

See RETIREES, Page 2A

The Sunshine State still reigns supreme among the other 49 for drawing the most people aged 60 and older from out of state, according to SmartAsset's 2025 study, which analyzed data from the 2023 American Community Survey of the U.S. Census.

Sumter growth: Road work planned in Wildwood

Julie Garisto
Leesburg Daily Commercial
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILDWOOD — Sumter County is growing more each year. The central Florida county's population increased by nearly 27% since 2020, making it one of the fastest-growing counties in Florida.

To address the infrastructure and public safety challenges that come with this growth, local officials are offering opportunities for input from citizens.

This month, a Sumter County government project team will analyze data and engage the community to evaluate transportation safety during an open house on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Road.

The open house will offer information on Sumter County's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, which involves efforts to address traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on the county's transportation network.

The county urges all interested to attend, especially those who wish to share their thoughts and concerns about transportation safety.

"This initiative reflects our commitment to safer roadways for all users," said Deborah Snyder, Sumter County public works director, in a media release.

"Public feedback is an essential part of this process. We encourage residents to help shape the vision for a safer Sumter County."

If you can't attend or want to provide input online, visit PublicCoordinate at <https://app.publiccoordinate.com/#/projects/sumterss4a/> map to enter information about areas

See GROWTH, Page 2A

DeSantis backs redistricting without new census count

Gray Rohrer
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Gov. Ron DeSantis said he's prepared to redraw Florida's congressional districts — with or without new census numbers.

"I don't know how quick they can do it but if they did do it and came up with something in the next six months and they gave us a seat that would require us to redraw the lines," DeSantis told reporters at an Aug. 11 event in Melbourne.

"Short of that, we're in a situation where we believe there's defects in the current map ... even if they don't revise the current census, I think it is appropriate to be doing it."

The census is conducted once every 10 years but President Donald Trump called for a redo last week, claiming the U.S. Census Bureau produced faulty

numbers that hurt Republican-run states.

At the heart of the push for a new census is Trump's push to get GOP-led states to redraw their congressional districts to gain more Republican seats in the U.S. House ahead of the 2026 mid-term elections.

Texas is already in the middle of a mid-decade redistricting session. Such a move could cement GOP control of the chamber, although Democratic governors, including Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, have said they intend to draw more Democratic seats in their states if the Republicans conduct partisan gerrymanders throughout the country.

Republicans currently hold a 220-212 advantage over Democrats in the U.S. House. Three Democrats have died in

See DESANTIS, Page 2A



Gov. Ron DeSantis arrives at the Florida Historic Capitol building for the swearing-in ceremony for Attorney General James Uthmeier, who replaced Ashley Moody, Feb. 17. ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

