



This horse is NOT too big for me! Look, I'm almost as tall as the horse. I'm going to wash him off and take him for a ride. A girl named Chyenne Ingles and a horse named Drummer - which one do you think is too big for her britches? Chy is 7 years old and is in the second grade at Romeo Elementary. She is now riding Drummer around in the pasture by herself, thanks to the riding lessons she has received from Lindsay Sykes.



The Annual Ocala Chamber of Commerce Fish Fry was honoring Phyllis Hamm for her 34 years with the Chamber. Phyllis is on the right, center is Marti Bindley and left Debbie Zanetti, a past president of the Chamber. All three were having a great time. We appreciate Phyllis Hamm for all her hard work over the years. She has helped this writer many times. "A BIG THANK YOU PHYLLIS!"

Ombudsman

By: Charlotte Poss

The FSHL held it's quarterly meeting in Davenport, Florida. Plans were finalized for the annual session that is held in Tallahassee every October. The delegation will hold session the week of October 16th for 4 days. During this time, house bills and senate bills will be voted on and approved the same as if they were being conducted in the actual sessions of the legislature.

(Continued on Page 11)

Right - Speaking to the Ocala Business Leaders, is Jim Payton, Chairman of the Marion County Commission. He is a noted speaker, showing his wit, humor and a wealth of information. Several times during his talk he recognized his wife Bonnie. Jim is affiliated with many clubs, a member of the First Baptist Church of Ocala and on many boards and councils in the community. He is definitely involved in the county in which he lives.



Picture Index
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Pg 8 - OBL Job Fair
Pg 9 - Gilligan's Island



GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS
IN GOD WE TRUST

—Ken Tipper

I WONDER WHY

I am often amazed, and perhaps at times amused, at the ease in which I can assemble enough material to write this column. The foibles of human nature, the inability of government at all levels to solve the problems that be-devil us, the sports figures who are paid excessively and who apparently don't realize how lucky they are to possess a talent that enables them to live a life of luxury, all combine to provide our column with "stuff".

So speaking of sport, we wonder why teenage golf phenomenon Mi-

chelle Wie feels it necessary to continue to enter P.G.A. tournaments with the stated goal of competing successfully with the men who play the game for a living, and a good one at that. Her advisors, in this case her parents, are at fault in allowing this farce to continue. It is apparent that tournament promoters love to see Michelle on the tee with the men. After all, she is a big draw, even though the chances of her making the cut are pretty remote. I would guess that the professionals entered in a tournament, even though they don't voice

their feelings, are not too happy to see their game turned into a media circus by a 16-year-old, who just happens to look pretty good in her latest fashion statement. Michelle should stick to L.P.G.A. tournaments, and the P.G.A. powers that be need to stop bowing to her requests to step on to the tee with the men of the professional tour.

Still on sports, I wonder why the University of Miami would want to hang on to a football player, Willie Williams, who has asked to be released from his scholarship. Williams was allowed to enroll at Miami despite an 11-entry arrest record. Apparently upset that he was never a starter at Miami, Williams, it seems, wants to find another college willing to overlook his arrest record and give him a chance to ultimately enter the draft for the N.F.L. and become a millionaire. Which is yet another reason why the N.C.A.A. needs to crack down on schools who, by devious means, both academically and by ignoring criminal behavior, provide full scholarships for talented players who should never receive them.

A recent letter to the Star-Banner poked fun at our state Legislature, which wasted precious debating time in their 60-day sojourn in Tallahassee passing an Act that will allow local authorities to write an ordinance authorizing dog owners to take their pets to restaurants. I assume that the majority of our representatives up there are in favor of this asinine idea, but want lo-

cal governments to take action in their own particular bailiwicks.

We can only hope that our own elected officials place this idea in limbo, and leave it there in perpetuity! Which leads me to wonder if there were any lobbyists pushing this weighty legislation, whether restaurant owners were polled for their opinions, and who will clean up the mess left behind when dog-owning patrons have left the premises. I also wonder who the heck would WANT to take their dogs to a restaurant anyway!

I wonder what the chances are that an impartial jury will ever be seated in the Couey trial. Anyone who denies any previous knowledge of the case must have been living on the moon for the past few months. The omnipresent media have ensured that if you read a newspaper, or watch TV (and who does not?), the chances of the judge finally instructing a jury are seriously in doubt. I wonder what county will be chosen for the next effort to find 12 citizens who qualify.

I wonder if former Corrections Department Secretary James Crosby will be forced to return the \$215,000 retirement payout he received after being charged with accepting bribes, and whether the state will still pay him the \$66,000 annual pension he is supposed to receive. I also wonder why a man earning \$124,000 a year would risk it all by accepting bribes from people desirous of doing business with the state.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Seek the truth

ELECTION LAWS

As you all are hearing about the campaign contributions from The Villages management., A CANDIDATE Receiving \$500 from little children who are family members of major contributors is just another act that shows the residents of The Villages and the surrounding area what they stand for. It's called FULL CONTROL! Gary Breeden is receiving \$71,000 and Mr. Gilpin receiving a whopping \$41,000 for their campaign funds, why would anyone donate that much money to a county commission race you ask? When these two candidates are elected their One Sumter Plan is complete. They will have full control of Sumter County. The supervisor of elections should take this contribution issue to the State Attorney's office for review. Everyone knows it's a political game that will have a devastating effect on all long time Sumter County residents who not a part of the Villages. This is the workings of big business. If this leaves a bad taste in your mouth you can always vote the other way, if it

doesn't bother you, go for it!

This is the time of the year when the politicians are coming out to talk about what a good job they have done. Some have done a good job, usually it's the candidates who did a good job who are the ones that are not popular. They might have to vote to raise taxes or some other things that taxpayers will have to pay for. I agree there are some high profile candidates who are popular and do a good job, but they are few. I have been listening to some of the truths and a whole lot of "BS!"

You must decide what is truth and what is not. Some of these guys (men and Women) are nothing but empty suits drawing a paycheck and you need to recognize that. Sometimes you need to consider when a politician raised taxes, you might need to keep him or her in office to make sure the taxes are spent on the very thing for which they had planned the money .

CRIME

The first murder in the Villages, what a disaster. I think we will see there was more to the story that we

have not heard about yet. We are sorry for the family member, neighbors and all involved. It is a great loss!

FULL MOON

I received a called from an elderly lady in Ocala who felt unsafe in the community in which she lived. She felt unsafe because the complex is hiring people who don't speak English and can't respond to questions this lady asks. LIKE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? For all anyone knows, they could be people posing as employees of the complex. I think it is a shame for our elderly residents to live in fear for their wellbeing. I did direct her to what I think was the proper place and someone will check it out. Too many times the elderly are preyed on. Get involved and help stop the elderly from those fears. Crimestoppers is always a good start.

FULL MOON

To the south, in The Villages, a lady called to say our carrier threw a newspaper at a duck that was in her yard and someone had to stick up for the ducks. Well, I agree, so I cautioned the carriers, who are two college students working their way through school. If they encounter any ducks in a yard, they have been asked not to throw a paper in that yard. To the lady that stands up for the ducks, the carriers say they never saw a duck, but they were throwing papers in the dark. It could have happened. If you don't get a paper next month, you may have had a duck in your yard.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

I had the good fortune to hear Larry Payton, one of our County Commissioner speak at the Ocala Business Leaders. This man has a lot of good information and is willing to share. He will also tell it like it is. During the question and answer session I asked if the commissioners were going to take another look at the Sand Mine situation in Belleview that all the residents were upset about. He said "not likely. That decision has already been made, but we are going to do some traffic things to help alleviate some of the problems." I am not sure how Payton voted on the issue but it is clearly a

highly controversial issue.

SAND MINE

The request for a Sand Mine permit was turned down by the Planning and Zoning Commission. It was taken before the Commissioners and they passed it. That vote undermined the power of Planning and Zoning. What do we have them in place for if we are not going to let them do their job?

NEWS LEAK

The issue about the New York Times leaking sensitive information about how we are catching terrorists: Many months ago I was watching a news commentary and one of the political analysts said "we can find out where they are by following the money". It's no secret and if you think these terrorists don't know this, you are sadly underestimating them.

We not only have to find them, but we need to put heavier economic sanctions on the countries helping them. We are currently making countries wealthy by buying products from them and that same money is used to attempt attack our people. What is wrong with this picture.

FULL MOON

To the retired third grade school teacher who did not like my grammar/spelling "Thank you for reading my newspapers." Remember, anyone can be a critic, try publishing three papers and the criticism that comes with that. On a full moon the call rate doubles. In this case there just happened to be a full moon. There is a challenge every day! My definition of a story is to use words to get an idea across to the reader! If everything is spelled properly and the grammar is perfect, that is icing on the cake. I am not perfect, regardless of what you hear. HA HA!

FISH FRY

Enjoyed the Fish Fry put on by the Chamber this month. I can't help it. When food is prepared by a really good Chef it is so much better. In this case the food was fabulously prepared by Chef Randal of the Hilton. The temperature was in the 90's, pretty close to unbearable, but as the sun went down

(Continued on Page 13)

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for September

Seniors Voice - Noon, August 16

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

Noon, August 23

Seniors Voice of Ocala

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Circulation 237-5396

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THE WORLD IN REVERSE

Will You Age-In-Place?

Recent studies show that older Americans, including those who have serious health problems and need long-term care, want to live at home rather than in a nursing home or assisted living facility. Most seniors (81% of those age 62 and older) own their homes and 74% of those own them free and clear. With over \$2 trillion tied up in home equity, this financial resource has the potential to dramatically increase the ability of seniors to pay for long-term care at home. The federally insured FHA/HUD senior friendly reverse mortgage program can free up needed cash while enabling seniors to continue to own their home and never make a monthly house payment.

The amount that these senior households could receive from a reverse mortgage is substantial. These funds can go

a long way to pay for help at home and for retrofitting the home to make it safer and more comfortable for seniors. They could also use it to purchase long-term care insurance. According to the National Council on Aging, an estimated \$953 billion could be available from reverse mortgages for immediate long-term care needs and to promote aging in place.

The cost of aging in place is getting much more difficult with the rising cost of home maintenance, utilities, property taxes and homeowners insurance. These rising costs are fueling a surging and ever popular growing reverse mortgage market.

There have been double digit increases in the cost of home heating oil, natural gas, and propane in many areas of the country. Rising property taxes are squeezing retirees who have lived in the same house for 20, 30, or 40 years. For many

retirees, it takes them two full months of their fixed income to pay their rising property taxes. Moreover, insurance premiums have increased at a rate 2-3 times the annual rate of inflation in some areas of the country which negatively impacts monthly cash flow for seniors. It doesn't have to be that way!

More and more seniors are turning to the federally insured FHA/HUD reverse mortgage to solve aging-in-place issues.

The reverse mortgage enables homeowners 62 or older to tap the equity in their homes without credit or income qualifications to pay the senior homeowner a stream of monthly cash, a lump sum, or place it into a growing line of credit that can be accessed within 1-3 days for any reason or want. Most importantly, there is never a monthly house payment while at least one spouse occupies the home. There are no out-of-pocket costs and the senior homeowner retains the title/deed ownership of their home. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA)

insures the loan so that no debt can ever be passed to the heirs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has oversight of all approved lenders offering the FHA/HUD senior friendly reverse mortgage program. The reverse mortgage is a viable tool to help senior homeowners remain in their biggest investment - THEIR HOME...and age in place in dignity.

Mike Netherclift is a Regional Vice President and Certified Senior Advisor with Ocala based American Reverse Mortgage Corporation and is the host of the weekly radio show The World of Reverse Mortgages heard on WRZN Sunshine 720 AM every Sunday morning at 9am. You can contact Mike at 866-656-8540, 352-362-2145, or via email at Mike@AmericanReverse.com

I Wonder Why

(Continued from Page 2)

And talking about taxpayer money, I wonder how much graft has changed hands since the "Big Dig" started in Boston. Forecast to cost \$2-4 billion, the cost of this tunnel in Boston has risen to \$14 billion, and is now under a huge cloud due to faulty work which caused the death of a woman motorist, and bids fair to endanger others using the tunnel if the problems are not fixed immediately. I wonder how many pockets have been lined with the nations taxpayers, money.

I'm also wondering if other states will follow the lead of New York in denying drivers licenses to illegal immigrants. It seems that one Social Security number was used to obtain licenses for 57 illegal's, and a taxi driver used two S.S. numbers to get insurance on one and traffic tickets on the other! I wonder who funds the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund which represented these illegals, who apparently will appeal this New York state law.

I am the proud owner of a flag purchased through the good offices of my Representative, Ric Keller. Now I am wondering about where it was made, since of the \$5.5 million worth of American flags IMPORTED last year, \$5 million worth were made in China! I wonder if the flags flown over the Capitol and sold to constituents were made in China too. And, to my chagrin, a cap gifted to me by my daughter and bearing the names of the current Shuttle crew was also made in China. Is nothing sacred?

I wonder why Ocala city taxpayers should be stuck with handing money to a research company looking to locate here. Part of the rationale for them coming here is that they would bring 25 employees with them who earn six-figure incomes and who would spend lots of money in the area. I wonder how that would benefit Ocalans who are looking for a decent job.

I have lots more "I wonders", but publisher Tom has only so much space, so we will wonder why some more in the next issue.

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Pictured is Ken Tipper, columnist and feature writer for the Seniors Voice, Lady Lake Magazine and The Village Spectator. Along with all of those projects, Ken also has volunteered at the library, a Bailiff in the court system, big brother. mentor, does volunteer work at the Veterans Park and other volunteer work. We need more seniors volunteering in our community. The following is a note to Ken Tipper, from an out of town visitor to the Veterans Park.

To Ken Tipper

We just got back home (Charlotte, N.C.), and I remembered that I had a photograph to send to you. Thanks for the tour you gave us in the Veterans Memorial Park in Ocala. Thanks also to you, and the many others, who served to keep us free. God Bless you.



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MOVIE TIME August 8th & 9th "Derailed" Lucinda Harris (Jennifer Aniston), married with

a daughter and Charles Shine (Clive Owen), also married and has a daughter, keep meeting each other on a train. They develop a friendship which culminates into an illicit affair. The consequences turn out to be greater than they imagined: Phillippe Laroche (Vincent Cassel), a dangerous criminal with a taste for violence has learned about the affair. Laroche demands a substantial payment if he is to keep the word of Charles and Lucinda's relationship from their spouses. Rated R. When: Tuesday and Wednesday. August 22nd & 23rd. "Yours, Mine and Ours" with Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo, Rip Torn and others offer up their rendition of the 1968 comedy starring Lucille Ball and Henry Fonda. Time: 2:00 - 4:00 PM Where: 8th Avenue

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When: Thursday, August 10th
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(Continued on Page 8)

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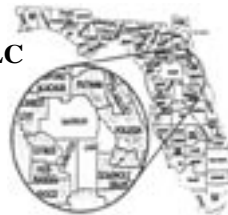
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OBL Job Fair



The Job Fair sponsored by the Ocala Business Leaders was a great success. Don Fillingame of Remedy Intelligent Staffing is the chairman of the committee that coordinates this event. Pictured are some of the Ocala Business Leaders with tables at the event. A good number of applications for employment were taken. Thanks to the Ocala Business Leaders.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 7)

sessions. Where: Herbert S. Coleman Center, 2001 SE 32nd Avenue, Ocala, next to the Health Department. Cost: \$60.00 for singles and \$90.00 for couples, payable in advance of class starting date. What Are you interested in learning about computers?

The computer class at the Herbert S. Coleman Center is the place for you! We have an atmosphere that was created especially to introduce seniors to computers. We have easy classes for the beginner student. We offer an in-

troductory class in word processing. Beginner classes are for 6 consecutive weeks on Mondays, 9:30 - 11:30 and workshop (lab class) are 12:30 - 4:30 PM, which is included in the course fee and available for 2 years. Classes start every 7th week. Please call 629-8351 for class schedule.

DIGITAL CAMERA COURSE

If you are interested in learning more about what you can do with your digital camera photos, call Mary at 401-3918 for information on times and dates of classes.

Hog Run To Raise Money For Charity

"Ocala H.O.G. Chapter"

2006 "Christmas in July" Toy Run Saturday, July 29, Rain or Shine. Biker's Fantasy Poker Run - \$1,500 in Prize Money.

Toy Run to Benefit Kimberly's Cottage and Sheltering Arms Home for Children, donation to help support New Horizon Academy **Unwrapped NEW toys only please**

Run Starts and Ends at Harley Davidson of Ocala, 5331 N US Hwy 441, Ocala, FL (352)732-2488.

Registration opens 8:30 am, 1st bike out 9am, last bike out 11am, last bike in 1pm. 3:00 Live Music, and Food and all are welcome at Harley Davidson of Ocala.

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Gilligan's Island Comes To Ocala



Stuff The Bus

Thrift Stores are proud to announce their 4th year of participation in the Kingdom of the Sun Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America Stuff the Bus program. Operation Stuff the Bus is designed to give school supplies to more than 600 children identified as homeless attending Marion County schools.

Operation Stuff the Bus will be at the Belleview Regional Shopping Center on Saturday July 29th from 10 a.m. thru 6 p.m. The Hospice of Marion County Thrift Stores will collect donations for the Stuff the Bus program at all three store locations July 24th thru 27th. All donated items will be delivered to the bus on July 29th at the Belleview location. School supplies needed include binders, dictionaries, pens, calculators, markers, colored pencils, crayons notebooks, composition books and notebook paper.

Hospice of Marion County Thrift Stores are located at 10325 S.E. Highway 441, (K- Mart Shopping Center), Belleview, 6114 S.E. State Road 200, (Jasmine Square), and 7578 S.E. Maricamp Road (Heather Island Plaza) in Silver Springs Shores. The stores are open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. thru 4 p.m. Donations are accepted daily from 10 a.m. thru 3 p.m. To schedule a pickup of your donated items, please call 873-7400. The net income from the Thrift Shops goes directly to patient care.

The Annual Ocala Chamber of Commerce Fish Fry had a very large crowd. The heat was a little tough, but as the sun went down, so did the temperature. It was held at Ocala Breeders Sales on Airport Road. As you walked in, you saw a set from Gilligan's Island. A photographer was set up to take

pictures of guests with the cast as they entered. These pictures will be on the website. The silent auction was very successful, Chef Randel of the Hilton prepared the meal, a fish dinner with all the trimmings including a good old fashioned corn boil. It was out of this world. Again a great time was had by all.

Wynn on Election Day!

We, the citizens of the Fifth Circuit, ask for your vote for **Scott Wynn** for Circuit Judge on Sept. 5. With your vote, we will **Wynn on Election Day!**

Clark Yandle
Hon. Charlie & Michelle Stone
Joe Zuyus
John & Jamie Kolley
Hon. Kurt & Sally Kelly
Hon. Susan & Michael Kirk
Tommy Bronson
Charles Castline
Deborah Faunce
Bonnie Taylor
Paul Sullivan
Pat Gabriel
Mike & Debbie Langley
Lyn Serianni
Mark Taylor
Hon. Nancy H. Fullerton
James & Gina Korp
David & Beverly Thompson
Mac & Gladys Kuharske
Richard & Cleo Erwin
Paul & Kelleen Truesdell
Monty & Gloria Eason
Chris Gangler

Hon. Kenneth Green
Hon. Keith Mullins
Will Pruitt
Lois Wilbur
Leo & Rita Blumenthal
John & Eileen O'Brien
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Clyde & Gwen Puryear
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Phil & Gail Jannarone
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John & Ann Gold
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Esther De Pedro-Prieto
Hon. John & Sandra Taylor
Olive Ingram
Lonnie & Rachel Embry
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Rick & Margaret Engd
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Skip & Shady Keener
Billy & Lynda McMurphy
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Dudley Hampton
Robert & Doris Hoenecke
Henry Lee & Sandy Langer
Hon. Steve Hering Sr.
Calvin & Thelma Richie
Rocky & Nancy Stacy
William & Susan O'Dell
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Angie Boynton
Robert & Patti Lyles
Hon. Felix Ramirez
Hon. John H. Christian II
Donald & Ellen George
Gary Schraut
Dr. Adel Eldin

Catherine Howard
Tess Smaxwell Livermore
Glenn & Joan Jones
Dr. Mary Anderson
Rev. Paul Clemons
James & Lauren Holder
Robert & Evelyn Gaddis
James & Carol Fussell
Anthony & Irene Tortora
William & Marlene Connery
Ann Dupee
Lawrence Ciner
David P. Lewis
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Rick & Linda Weber
Michael Smallridge
Hon. Stan & Marilyn Bainter
Jeff & Kathy Kopp Sr.
Gus Guadagnino
Tom & Hope Lamb
Ron & Bonnie Ruge

Things You Need To Know

Information from the internet:

1987 Oliver North testifying at the Iran-Contra during Reagan time. He was being questioned by a senator; "Did you not recently spend close to \$60,000 for a home security system?" Ollie replied, Yes. Isn't that just a little excessive?" "No, sir," continued Ollie. "No? And why not?" the senator asked. "The lives of my family and I were threatened, sir." "Threatened? By whom?" the senator questioned. "By a terrorist, sir"

Ollie answered. "Terrorist? What terrorist could possibly scare you that much?" "His name is Osama bin Laden, sir" Ollie replied.

The senator tried to repeat the name, but couldn't pronounce it. Then the senator continued. Why are you so afraid of this man?" the senator asked. "Because, sir, he is the most evil person alive that I know of", Ollie answered. "And what do you recommend we do about him?" asked the senator. "Well, sir, if it was up

to me, I would recommend that an assassin team be formed to eliminate him and his men from the face of the earth." The senator disagreed with this approach, and that was all that was shown of the clip. By the way, that senator was Al Gore!

Also: Terrorist pilot Mohammad Atta blew up a bus in Israel in 1986. The Israelis captured, tried and imprisoned him. As part of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians in 1993, Israel had to

agree to release so-called "political prisoners." However, the Israelis would not release any with blood on their hands, The American President at the time, Bill Clinton, and his Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, "insisted" that all prisoners be released. Thus Mohammad Atta was freed and eventually thanked the US by flying an airplane into Tower One of the World Trade Center. This was reported by many of the American TV networks at the time that the terrorists were first identified. It was censored in the US from all later reports.

■—ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Please accept this letter as my request for you to allow me to re-introduce myself to your readers. I am Michael G. Takac, and am one of two candidates for the recently created Circuit Court Judge position identified as "Group 030." I write because the late July qualification date established in the new law (ordinarily Judges qualify in May) leaves just over one month for voters to decide one of the four circuit judge positions they may vote on September 5, 2006. The other races have either three candidates, making a November run-off likely, or qualified in May.

Hopefully, voters reading this will recognize the "unusual last name" and remember my proven record for handling a broad array of civil and criminal cases, as well as appeals across our state. For 19 years as a lawyer, including stints in public service as a Senior Assistant Attorney General, and Assistant General Counsel to the Executive Office of the Governor, it has been my privilege to serve our system of justice and the people of this state. I would truly appreciate the opportunity to apply my broad legal experience and the lessons of hard work, integrity, and fairness taught to me by my parents and grandparents as one of your next

Circuit Court Judges.

As conscientious voters work to sort through the many choices they will have to make on their upcoming primary ballot, I pray that the qualifications of your judicial candidates will not be overlooked. Should you have any questions, please accept this invitation to call me at 352-671-1313. Thank you, and your readers, for this opportunity to reveal the qualifications and character of Michael G. TAKAC, Candidate for Circuit Court Judge, group 30.

Sincerely,
Michael G. TAKAC

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Ombudsman

(Continued from Page 1)

Our delegates will, after the session, lobby their representatives to please take some of our bills and incorporate them into the different house and senate bills and make them into law.

The FSHL works with many agencies of the government. The Department of Elder Affairs and the Department of Area on Aging, to name

just two. With the Department of Elder Affairs, there is a program called the Ombudsman program. This program is the voice of the residents of long term Care.

The following is a reprint from NORC Gazette.

“Florida Governor Jeb Bush has signed into law a bill that makes significant changes in the state statute

governing the Florida Ombudsman Program. The legislation clarifies and improves the program’s ability to advocate for residents of long term care facilities. According to State Ombudsman Brian Lee, the changes are designed to: 1) centralize program operations within the office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman by realigning all administrative duties to department personnel, allowing the program’s volunteers to concentrate on service delivery to residents; 2) promote a culture of resident-oriented advocacy by empowering ombudsmen to focus more on the protection of long-term care facility residents through a refined annual assessment process; 3) remove barriers to volunteerism by streamlining the application and approval process for prospective volunteers; and 4) clarify staff and volunteer roles by designating program staff as representatives of the Office of the State Ombudsman.”

What is the long term care ombudsman council? The long term ombudsman council is a group of concerned citizens whose goal is to improve the quality of life for people who live in long term care facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult family care homes and long term care units in hospitals.

What is an Ombudsman?

An ombudsman is a specially trained and certified volunteer who has been approved by the governor and given authority under Florida law to investi-

gate and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, long term care facility residents.

What does an Ombudsman Do?

The ombudsman’s job is to protect the rights of residents and assure that residents receive fair treatment and quality care by:

- * Investigating and resolving complaints.
- * Visiting each facility at least annually to evaluate conditions.
- * Ensuring that residents are receiving the legal, financial, social, rehabilitative and other services to which they are entitled.
- * Educating residents, families and facility staff about residents’ rights.
- * Providing information to the public about long term care facilities.
- * Assisting with the establishment of resident and family councils.
- * Representing residents’ interests before state and federal government by working to change laws, regulations and policies that affect those who live in long term care facilities.

You can get involved, you can become an Ombudsman. It is a rewarding program, no pay, but a lot of satisfaction knowing that you have been able to help someone who could not speak or fight for their rights without your help. Get involved, volunteer. Your help is needed. One day an Ombudsman may be fighting for your rights.

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Who Is Interfaith

Emergency Services?

In 1983, the religious pastoral community in Marion County saw a

need to provide emergency assistance to individuals and families in crisis. The majority of services are pro-

vided by our volunteers. Interfaith is governed by a Board of Directors

its representatives from clergy, social service, business and other community leaders.

Who Do We Help?

Interfaith Emergency Services provides a full range of services and assistance for residents of Marion County. We serve individuals and families in need.

Clients are referred by Churches, Synagogues and Public Service Agencies to Interfaith for assistance. We provide the basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter and much more to enhance the quality of life for families and individuals.

In 2005, Interfaith Emergency Services, through outreach and services touched the lives of more than 45,000 individuals in Marion County.

Funding for Services

Interfaith Emergency Services receives no government funds for our day-to-day operations. For more than two decades our financial support has come from churches, individuals and businesses providing both monetary and in-kind support for our programs and services. Special events are held throughout the year to raise additional financial support.

Interfaith operates two thrift stores, one in Ocala and another in Reddick. The thrift stores generate additional funds for our prescription program www.marion-interfaith.org

Volunteer your time and expertise. Interfaith Emergency Services has a variety of volunteer opportunities at our main office: help with client interviews, clerical and other office duties.

Volunteers are needed to provide help with our Prescription Program, Thrift Stores, Clothing Closet, Food Pantry Warehouse, Food 4 KiLLs Program and Special Events.

You can make a monetary donation, or a donation of various items to our programs. All donations are tax-deductible. Please contact us to make a donation or learn more about volunteering. Don't forget to include Interfaith Emergency Services in your Estate Planning. 352-629-8868



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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Seek the truth

(Continued from Page 4)

it got a little bit better. One unidentified lady almost passed out, I think from the heat, but quickly recovered.

I must apologize to my readers, according to several emails, the Madeline Murray Ohaire story was not correct. I have yet to find what was wrong with it, but the email kept referring to

snoops. I guess this is like the dictionary for true or false. If I was wrong, I will admit it. Still checking!

Ocala business Leaders sponsored a great Job Fair this month. I saw a lot of people filling out applications. With unemployment being so low its hard to find help.

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Miscellaneous : Health Medical : Health Medical Equipment

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Miscellaneous : Health Medical : Health Medical Equipment

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Real Estate : SE Homes : Over \$300,000

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tion. Must see pictures. Located in the heart of downtown Ocala, Florida. \$550,000 (1240 S. E. 11th Ave.) Call: 352-624-2215, bg5042000@yahoo.com

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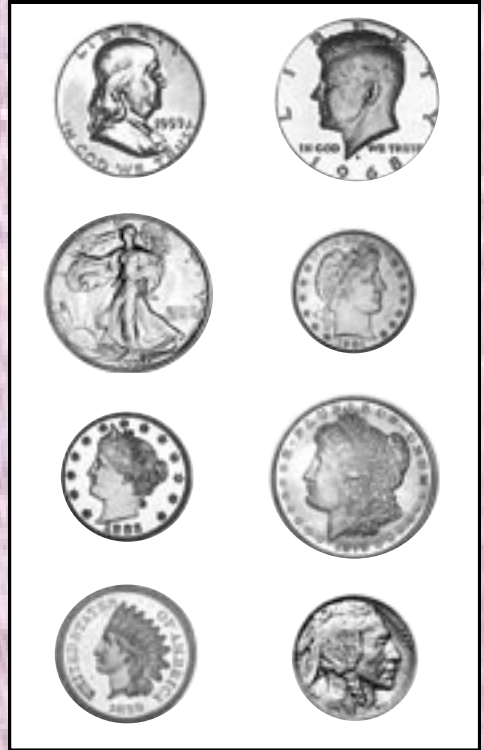
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