

Turmoil in the School Board Part Three

By Tom Loury

An elected politician strong enough to say "NO".

Jackie Porter was elected by the people of Marion County to represent them on the Marion County School Board.

Apparently she looked at her job differently than others causing some turmoil.

One of the topics that has caused publicity was replacing roofs on Dunnellon High School. The cost to the taxpayers for this project was in the range of \$500,000. I have read stories and interviews about the School Board Superintendent Jim Yancy. I felt that it was appropriate to get some input from the school board member.

Following are the questions and responses:

Question: When were you first informed about the need for new roofs for Dunnellon High School?

Answer: My first knowledge of this issue was when it appeared on the April 13th 2010 agenda as Dunnellon re-roof contract for \$493,449.00, to Garland, Inc. which is the manufacturer of the roofing product staff has chosen to use.

Question: Were you provided any information about warranties on the roofs or did you have to request that information?

Answer: At the April 13th 2010 meeting, staff disclosed that they believed the roofing materials manufacturer was "Koppers", and was unsure of the warranties of the three roofs. I withheld my approval of the contract for \$493,000 until the warranty information could be verified, (finally surfaced seven weeks later), however other board members went on to pass the contract 4 to 1. On May 11th, 2010 I still didn't have any information regarding the warranties but the board went on to approve the \$500,000 funding for the emergency roofing project for Dunnellon High School at a vote again 4 to 1 with me being the only "no". I went on to press the envelope regarding the warranties.

Question: Have you been provided the information regarding the warranties and what did you discover?

Answer: Staff disclosed at the June 8, 2010 meeting (8 weeks later) there exists a 20 year material warranty for buildings 23 & 24 which took effect on 8/12/1998 and a 20 year material warranty on building #25 which took effect on 7/13/1999. The warranties are all being handled by Honeywell, successor to Allied Signal, and their warranty department (the material mfg was not Koppers as originally stated by staff).

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Larry Myford
Myford Productions

Do you value your property and contents? Then you should have a home inventory done. Whether it be your personal property or your commercial property, documenting what you have is critical before you have an insurance claim.

You pay insurance your whole life and when you finally have a claim, you want to make sure that claim is maximized to get back as much as possible so you don't lose

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Deanna Hance

Deanna Hance has teamed up with Fast Response Heating & Air Conditioning. She has worked with owner Trevor Iverson for over 13 years in the heating and air conditioning industry. Deanna has over 15 years HVAC experience in replacement of energy efficient equipment, indoor air quality and marketing. Also joining TomL Publishing, Deanna will be an Account Executive helping business owners to grow their businesses. Diversification will keep this girl movin' & shakin!!! 352-789-4453.

How do you like Obama Now?

This question has created quite a lot of interest in the paper. We are interested in your views - Pro or Con. Please give us your opinion.

• • •

Dear Editor:

Very early this morning I had a revelation that begs to be shared with every member of this Christian Nation.

For no reason what-so-ever this line popped into my mind.

"And deliver us from evil. Amen"

It is a safe bet that quite a few Americans are familiar with this line.

If you believe in the power of prayer, perhaps, now is the time to start saying this prayer several times a day. Or, any prayer of your choice.

What if we all decided to designate a day, and time to make this plea in unison, God

might just hear us, and hopefully answer our prayer. It could not hurt to try.

How does July 4, at noon sound?

Where ever you are: recite it loud, and clear, in order to swell the cacophony of voices. Can we all carry this message to our respective churches, businesses, clubs, etc. Help mobilize the entire country by any means available, phone, mail, internet, carrier pigeon, even smoke signals might help.

Perhaps, our voices of entreaty have not been all that strong, and we need to turn up the volume. Can you hear us, now, God? It is certain Congress cannot hear us. Congress

(Continued on Page 9)

Mud Bogs Bogged Down

Board rejects plans for mud bogging pit but approves horse racing track.

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 15, 2010) – Marion County commissioners considered two applications for special use permits during today's zoning portion of the board meeting. The first request came from Marion Acres, LLC, for a mud bogging pit off Highway 315 in northeast Marion County. The second request came from Larry R. Brown for a horse racing track located near the Marion-Sumter County line.

In the first case, with a 3-2 vote, with Commission Vice Chair Stan McClain and Commissioner Charlie Stone dissenting, the majority of commissioners rejected the special use permit application for Marion Acres, LLC. The applicant had requested a special use permit to convert a sod farm into a motorized vehicle racetrack and practice facility on 392 acres. The land is located ap-

proximately three miles north of the intersection of Highway 40 and Highway 315. The facility would have included mud bogging areas, ATV trails and wash areas.

The Marion Acres property is located in a springs protection zone and Ocklawaha

(Continued on Page 5)

Tom's Picks

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• • •

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—Ellen B. Wilcox—

MONEY MATTERS

Most folks don't plan to fail: They just fail to PLAN!

If you're one of our few readers who faithfully saves old newspapers, I urge you to pull out my previous column and re-read it! Yes, we have had a "pullback!" Some might use an even stronger term. As I write this, our major US Stock index, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) is hovering below 10,000. Not a happy sight for most retirees, to be sure.

As I have commented often in the past, the growth shown in the DJIA earlier this year, and particularly through April and much of May, was not, in my opinion, sustainable because the underlying foundation was made of sand and not bedrock! This is equivalent to a World Class sprinter running a Marathon. Both the sprinter's make up and training regimen is designed and practiced for his short race, and it differs markedly from the personality and training of the marathoner. The sprinter can literally see everything between the start and the finish of his race. On the other hand, the marathoner can encounter much that is unforeseen as he covers a much longer distance over a far greater period of time. As an example, think 10 seconds versus 2+ hours!

The single biggest crisis facing the financial community today is enormous debt. This debt comes in many forms and combinations of forms: the debt of individuals to other individuals, financial institutions and governments; the debt of corporations

to individuals, other corporations, financial institutions, and governments; the debt of financial institutions to individuals, corporations, other financial institutions, and governments; the debt of nations to individuals, corporations, financial institutions and other nations. Where did this debt begin...and more importantly, where does it end.

The debt begins with using products and services that are well beyond the definition of necessary, and for which there is no visible means of payment in the foreseeable near term. Of course, having all those "nice-but-not-necessary" goods and services usually feels oh, so good. However, when the reality sets in, it forces the question, "Was that a good idea in the first place?"

All of these questions relating to Institutional, Corporate and Governmental debt are equally applicable to our own personal debt. Where Institutional and Corporate debt is concerned, it is easy to look for the greedy officials of those entities and to want to hold those officials responsible for greater transparency and higher standards. In the case of Government debt, it is difficult, if not virtually impossible, to eliminate, or even to reduce significantly, the spending needed to sustain a nation.

As Americans we have come to expect a way of life not conducive to reduced goods and services. In other words, we have come to believe that "the good life" is our right rather than our privilege. Special interest groups abound, and each has its own agenda for adding measurably to our collective lives. Cutbacks in any area are not popular.

Now let's go back and think about all of this in relation to our own lives, our own wants (NOT needs!), and our own spending habits.

With the recent downturn in our US markets, how's your retirement looking these days?

Need help, or a second opinion? Call for a free one-hour consultation. At Wilcox Wealth Management,* we have more than twenty-seven years experience, and we'll be happy to share our expertise with you. Call my Assistant, Sandy, at 352-259-1547, or email us at Ellen@ellenwilcox.com. You can also check out our website at www.ellenwilcox.com <<http://www.ellenwilcox.com>> for lots more information and commentary.

Larry Myford

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money.

A documented inventory is the way to go! With this in hand you will be able to pick up the pieces after a disaster hits, whether it is a fire, a natural disaster such as a hurricane or a break-in.

A normal "home" inventory includes video and photos of the exterior of the premise, the interior, the garage and automobiles. It also includes detailed information on selected items that included the make, model and serial numbers. Call Larry Myford Productions 352-208-9188.

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Make a New Path in Business!

By Tom Loury

You know how people say think outside the box? You think, how do I do that? Well think of something you would never do. Then wonder how you could adapt it to your business. I was at a boat company one time and they were looking for a new ad campaign. While I was talking to the lady who was the Owner Operator of the business, her two daughters came in to take her to lunch. They were about nineteen and twenty. Both model material. I got this bright idea to get them to model with mom's boat. "Fashions and Boats" We reach a friend of the owners who had a clothing store. We put the two businesses together and promoted both. We took pictures with evening gowns, slacks, sun dresses, yes bathing suits - taking pictures in boats in the water, at the business in

front of boats, in boats that were on trailers. The entire picture shoot took three hours.

This was totally different and It went over big. It sold boats! In the following issue of the newspaper we revealed that the girls were working with their mother for the summer and it created more traffic. Some of their ex-classmates came to see them, one boat was sold. Later as the weather got a little cooler, the girls went back to college, the boat company had hotdogs and chilli days. Creating traffic to put their boats in front of people. I suggested she take a boat and trailer and leave it in a parking lot that had a high traffic pattern. The truck that boat was hooked to had the company name all over it.

I say make your own path and leave your own trail - that sound familiar? Anyone can

follow the same path that others have created and you know where it leads. If you do things that everyone else does, it could yield extra business. But if you make your own path, there could be a pot of gold at the end. I worked for a big corporation that said one day, Muddle through with purpose. I did not understand what that meant. The word muddling seems sort of unprofessional. Later you find out that you set goals and ran into obstacles. You have to overcome them, you go under, over or around them, all the time being creative and heading toward your

goal. Many times we lose our direction. We have to stop, look at our goals again and renew our plan and directions.

Don't do the same thing you did last year and expect different results. Put yourself and your products in front of as many people as you can. I will leave you with these two thoughts.

Famous Quote

"It's hard to beat a person that never gives up." Babe Ruth.

"Do not go where the path may lead, instead go where there is no path and leave

Turmoil in the School Board Part Three

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Staff also disclosed at the June 8, 2010 meeting that if Honeywell determines their

product to be defective that they will cover material and labor to repair the roofs and will continue to do so for the remainder of the warranty, but would not pay for a total roof replacement. Furthermore, if they find it is not their product, but another cause, (installation, weather, etc.) they would not cover the roofs.

Question: So, if the roofs are still under warranty, why would the staff go ahead and request new roofs?

Answer: Staff stated that these roofs were leaking and seven weeks after the vote, I continued to question the decision to spend so much of taxpayers money. Staff started acquiring documents out of storage, showing repairs since the 1998 & 1999 original installations. In the Ocala Star Banner it was written that the schools leaks caused students and computer equipment to get wet. I wasn't there, but if this is truly the case, I don't know why staff waited 12 years to bring this issue forward and not attempt to recover any part of the roofing warranty. As I said previously, I was not informed of a problem until the \$493,000 contract was put on the agenda, April 13th, 2010. Staff also provided information that \$20,000 has been spent to repair the roofs on building 23,24, & 25 since 2003. The original installer of these roofs was paid \$5000 of that money.

Issue #2 Marion Service Roofing Contract for Maintenance for \$200,000 on Shingle Roofs.

Publishers Note: My opinion is that the school district is now on the right tract because Porter stood her ground and made those involved look at the warranties that may result in a savings for the taxpayers. We need more elected officials like Jackie Porter.

Tom Loury said that!

Tom's Picks

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vices under well known Business Clubs and Chambers of Commerce to try to get you the Best of the Best. Part of the weeding process is they must be highly visible in the community, like active in the Chamber, or other large groups that screen their members.

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Those of you who voted for Obama were duped. What most did not realize is Obama was preaching CHANGE. No one questioned what change. He wants to change our country, all we stand for and change the way we pay for things or not pay for things. He wants people who don't work and don't earn a paycheck to get paid every week. It won't take long to run out of tax payers. What a lot of big company people are doing is scaling back. They will wait until all this blows over and then when things get changed back to where they were they will go back to making their company bigger. It does not pay to be big business. What is interesting is when we run out of companies over \$250,000 income then Obama will lower it to \$200,000 income people and as it keeps going down the people getting fat on Governments jobs will have to be the taxpayer.

I don't hear anyone saying they went to school with Obama. The visible things are him being election and voting present. Then all of a sudden he appears with unlimited funds and promises change. Obama made many promises to the citizens of the United States, he has not finished on making 90% of his promises good. The changes he has made has gone amuck. He has never done anything but be connected to the underworld of Chicago. You witnessed that when you saw thugs intimidating people in front of the

voting stations. You also saw that as he puts people in high paying jobs that are thugs.

We have a big job ahead of us. We must stop the run away government spending!

I believe the Tea Party movement is on the right track. What I'm concerned about is that the Tea Party is effective in local and state elections, but they need a core. They need someone who can pull them together and help them reach a common goal or a common candidate.

On other lighter side:
Tom's Picks continues getting calls for roofer, window repair, pasture mowing and more. Diane Leaf told me that she took her car to A&B Automotive in Ocala. Diane said her car was fixed in a timely fashion and at a reasonable price. A lady called in from the Villages saying a garage door repair guy we recommended showed up on a holiday, did not charge extra and they were very happy with them. At Tom's Picks we work hard to put you with an honest business that will supply you with what you need.

Restaurants:
The best of the best this month was Brick City restaurant in Ocala. I ate there four times this month, each time being as good

as the first. I really enjoyed the lunch special Tilapia with vegetables and a salad with lots of hot coffee.

Met with friends at the Outback, had a pleasant visit and good food.

My youngest son Justin Loury is a musician in a Christian Rock Band. The band "Love Like Gravity" has been working hard to get a hit song. The band has been to Nashville and recorded their CD, just before the flood. They just released a song to nationwide radio, on Christian rock stations. The song is called Adrenaline, listen for it. I am excited for the group. They are doing three and four day road trips to play concerts and will probably go on the road doing short tours. This concert was in Kentucky, they did a one nighter and are playing all their own originals. Check them out on the Internet. This has been my son's life long dream to play music

Governor Jan Brewer and her immigration law goes into effect in July. People are quick to criticize, however, they don't live in Arizona. They're not feeling the pain of what Arizona is feeling, they are not having their schools and hospitals drained of revenue. They are not having their children dis-

appear. Crime is out of control. It's a problem that the federal Government again has failed its tax payers.

Last but not least, we have a critic out there, Just One? Surprise surprise! If a newspaper person is doing their job they will have lots of critics. Let me go back and explain what this newspaper's intent is for running our "How do you like Obama Now?". We are looking for input positive or negative. We want your opinion because we believe that everyone out there has the right to see their opinion in print. That's why we did the Jackie Porter story. I did not believe her opinion was printed. So you can be a critic but be a critic with a voice. Give us your opinion and we will print it. That is our job and being a critic is your job. I have been accused of being a Democrat, Republican, Left-winger, right-winger, independent and more, believe me much more. I say yes to them all. I am all of those things through your voice. More important than all of that is that I will put your opinion in print even if I don't agree with your point of view. So be a critic but not a silent critic. Write a letter to the editor and we will run it! tloury@earthlink.net furnish your name and phone number so I can call and verify that you wrote it, no name calling this is serious business.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for July

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, July 21st

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, July 28th

Ocala DownTown

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Springs Protection

Board Revisits Septic System Requirements in Springs Protection Ordinance

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 9, 2010) – The Marion County Springs Protection Ordinance, adopted June 2, 2009, marked a significant step in Marion County's ongoing actions to protect and preserve local water resources. And, on the one-year anniversary of this landmark decision, county staff is working to re-evaluate septic system requirements detailed in the ordinance.

Some of the requirements have raised concerns because of discrepancies between the county's current ordinance and the State Department of Health, or DOH, code for construction and operation of low pressure dosing systems. Low pressure dosing systems are similar to traditional septic systems but add a pump to more effectively distribute outflow to a system's drain field.

Currently, the ordinance states that septic systems installed or replaced after Jan. 1, 2011, must be low pressure dosing systems. However, the DOH oversees septic sys-

tem permitting as required by the State of Florida and is responsible for implementing this portion of the ordinance. Also, recently passed state legislation requires the DOH to administer a state-wide septic system inspection program beginning Jan. 1, 2011, which eliminates the need for similar language in the county's ordinance.

County staff requested that the commission schedule a public workshop on June 3, 2010, to discuss these issues. At that workshop, commissioners directed staff to re-evaluate septic system requirements and provide recommendations for changing some of those standards. Staff is expected to present recommended changes to commissioners within 60 days.

For more information, contact the Office of the County Engineer Water Resources Program at 352-671-8686. To view the current ordinance, visit www.marioncountyfl.org <<http://www.marioncountyfl.org>> and enter "Springs Protection Ordinance" in the search box.

Sweet Adeline's Chorus

Thursdays in July: Christmas In July music and fun every Thursday in July, 6-7:30 PM Women, 18-80, who like to sing, are invited to share in the Holiday spirit with Summer Springs Sweet Adeline's Chorus when they rehearse music for a performance

in Silver Springs park in December. Bring a friend and join the rehearsals at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sunset Harbor Road, Summerfield. For more information, call 352-442-8441.

Happy 4th of July

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Mud Bogs Bogged Down

(Continued from Page 1)

flood plain. Wetlands are also located on the property. For those reasons, Marion County Growth Management staff recommended denying the proposal, stating that the use was not compatible with the general character of the area. Staff also said the facility was not consistent with Marion County's Comprehensive Plan and could adversely affect the public interest. The majority of commissioners agreed.

In the second case, the applicant Larry R. Brown, requested the special use permit and zoning reclassification to construct and operate a quarter horse racing track and gambling card room. The 66 acre property is

located west of South U.S. Highway 301 on the south side of Southeast 177th Place.

With a 3-2 vote, with Commission Vice Chair Stan McClain and Commissioner Charlie Stone dissenting, the majority of commissioners voted to approve the rezoning request from A-1 (General Agriculture) to A-2 (Improved Agriculture). With a second 3-2 vote, with Commission Vice Chair Stan McClain and Commissioner Charlie Stone dissenting, the majority of commissioners also approved the special use permit. However, commissioners required additional conditions: all facilities must be built simultaneously, and all races will occur at the new facility, not Ocala Breeder Sales.

Summer Reading Program for Everyone!

Make a big splash @ Your Library... READ! Be a part of the Marion County Summer Reading Program for Children, Tweens, Teens, and – yes – Adults! All ages from babies to seniors are invited to any Marion County Public Library branch during June and July for lots of fun, PLUS, chances to win prizes! Each time you check out materials from the library, you will be

given an entry form for the Summer Reading Program prize drawings on July 31st at 3:00 PM at the Headquarters – Ocala Library. Call 352-671-8551 for more information, or check out the library Web site at <http://library.marioncountyfl.org> for a county-wide listing of library programs and activities. Need a library card? Visit any library and get one – they're FREE.

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Are We There Yet?

By Charlotte Poss

How many times have you heard that expression. I know that I have over hundreds of times. I say this because of the oil spill in the Gulf. Are we there yet? Is it fixed yet?

One would think that if a company learns how to do something and does it over and over again for many years they would get it straight. How can BP know how to drill that many miles down and not also hold the plans to stop or close that hole when needed? It is amazing. This tragedy would be like a surgeon opening a person up for surgery and then not know how to close them back up.

Our ocean will take many, many years to come back from this. I myself do not think I will live long enough to see this. We have the knowledge to conquer space and go to the moon and back. Yet we cannot plug a hole in the bottom of the Ocean. BP does not even hold the knowledge to clean up the spill. I do not believe that so many countries have offered help to BP and BP has not taken this help. I have read that the oil can be separated from the water and refined into different products. It is unbelievable that all of these options are not being used. Will, BP wait until the entire Ocean is black with oil before they admit they do not know what they are doing.

Many people blame our President for not doing anything about this. I really do not understand the American people. First of all Congress may have passed the bill for off shore drilling but the President at that time

had the power to veto that Bill. Being our President at that time and the Vice President were both in the oil business this bill was not vetoed and went into law. I do not care who holds the majority in congress, the President always has the last word and can veto. At the time this bill for off shore drilling came to be, our Vice President at that time was and is receiving Millions of dollars in bonuses that were going into a trust fund until he came out of office. And now it is all this current President's fault.

When big business wants something, the public states that Government should stay out of private business and when something goes wrong the public comes back and states, what is the government doing to stop this? I do believe that we the public expect our government (President) to be God like and be able to do all things and because that person is just that a person they cannot perform these miracles.

BP is the one with the knowledge to drill, they are the ones who are supposed to have the knowledge to fix it. BP should also have the knowledge to clean it up. The oil companies have been raping the public for years and now they are still doing it. The pictures of the wildlife and ocean life dying are heartbreaking. The many families that are suffering and out of work is heartbreaking. And BP just keeps saying they can control it, too proud to take help from anyone. There are countries with ships that are out there, equipped to suck up this mess and separate

the water from the oil. It has been done before but BP will not take anyone's help. That old adage I can do it myself. Well, it is

time that BP uses that one word, HELP. Are we there yet? Is it fixed yet? When will you ask for help BP?

Dismissal of TECO Petition

TALLAHASSEE – Florida's Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved Tampa Electric Company's (TECO) voluntary dismissal of its petition for a solar energy power purchase agreement with Energy 5.0, LLC.

The agreement was scheduled to be reviewed at a full administrative hearing when TECO filed a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal with Prejudice. This power purchase agreement cannot be reintroduced for Commission consideration as a result of the filing. Today's vote officially closes the Commission's docket on TECO's petition.

TECO planned to purchase the net electrical output from Energy 5.0's Florida Solar I facility for 25 years, beginning on January 1, 2011. The facility would be a 25 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic array that could provide approximately 50,000 MW hours of energy annually.

The PSC originally approved the agreement in January; however, the Commission reconsidered and vacated its order on the decision in March.

TECO serves about 600,000 residential customers. Its West Central Florida service area covers 2,000 square miles, including all of Hillsborough County and parts of Polk, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

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DR. DULGAR

YOUR PERSONAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The last two months we have discussed the first two of the three types of chiropractic care, intensive and rehabilitative/corrective care. What a better time of the year than now, with July 4 and Independence Day celebrations, to talk about the third, and most important, type of care: elective or wellness care. And why is that? Because it is all three types of care, but in particular the third type, that is integral in you taking individual responsibility for your own health so that you can be as independent as possible as you get older by taking as good of care of yourself as possible. Where does that begin? With taking care of your brain and spinal cord, for they truly are the master (nervous) system of the body that ultimately control almost every function of your body.

And this brings us to some of the points made in a lecture I presented this past month at the Holistic Club of The Villages on LIFE EXTENSION. Taking the best possible care of yourself includes looking at yourself as a "whole" person, and not just certain aspects of your life. This is why I used as a reference to my talk the book BLUE ZONES, by Dan Buettner. He found, through the latest research from longevity experts, the world's four confirmed blue zones where people manage to live longer and better lives; and it is not through pills, surgery or medications, but in the everyday things they do: it was via their life domains: what to do, how to think, how to eat, and how to build strong social relationships that support good habits.

There are nine powerful yet simple lessons from these blue zones that can put you

on the path to a longer and better life. I would encourage you to not only read the book, but also go to the web site: www.bluezones.com. There you will find a cornucopia of information on living longer, including a Vitality Compass that asks you personal questions that then calculates: (1). your potential life expectancy at your current age,

(2). your healthy life expectancy – the number of good years you can expect to live,

(3). the number of extra years you're likely to gain if you optimize your lifestyle, and

(4). a customized list of suggestions to help you with that plan.

For those of you that do not want to either buy the book or go to the web site, I will be discussing these lessons and appropriate strategies next month in detail. They include moving naturally, cutting calories, avoiding meat & processed foods, drinking red wine in moderation, taking time to see the "big picture" and relieving stress, participating in a spiritual community, making family a priority, and being surrounded by like-minded people who share these values.

Along with this we will integrate the chiropractic principles that coincide with these lessons and discuss several other books, including one in particular by Dr. Andrew Weil.

"One can easily judge the character of a person by the way they treat people who can do nothing for them"

-Proverb-

Submitted by Dr. Garry Dulgar, Lady Lake Chiropractic Clinic

Refund for FPL Customers

PSC Orders \$13.8 Million Refund for FPL Customers

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a refund of more than \$13.8 million for Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) customers for replacement power costs attributable to a 2008 outage. The refund, applied as a reduction to the annual Fuel Cost Recovery factor, will lower FPL's 2011 fuel factors applied to customer bills.

On February 26, 2008, a fault occurred at FPL's Flagami substation in Miami-Dade County that caused three of FPL's fossil-fueled generating units and its Turkey Point Nuclear Units 3 and 4 to trip offline. As a result, FPL was required to operate several less efficient peaking units, replace nuclear-fueled generation, and purchase power, all at a higher cost.

The Commission reviewed three options for implementing a refund and approved the one posing no additional customer costs for implementation during the annual Fuel Cost Recovery proceeding in November.

Based on the approved refund amount of \$13,854,054, including interest, the estimated impact of a one-time credit on a 1,000 kWh residential bill would be \$1.53. Using the approved true-up mechanism, the bill impact would be \$.14 per month over a 12-month period.

The PSC approved a Proposed Resolution of Issues in January, agreeing that FPL should refund replacement power costs attributable to the 2008 outage. In March, the Commission held a hearing to address how much FPL must repay and how that repayment would be refunded.

The PSC is committed to making sure that Florida's consumers receive their electric, natural gas, telephone, water, and wastewater services in a safe, affordable, and reliable manner. The PSC exercises regulatory authority over utilities in the areas of rate base/economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitoring of safety, reliability, and service.

For additional information, visit www.floridapsc.com.

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THE OMBUDSMAN

June 15 is/was Elder Abuse Awareness, every day should be. A person just cannot believe how many elders in our nation are abused everyday. There are many forms of abuse. The form of abuse that many people see readily is Physical Abuse. This is obvious because you can see the black eye or the black and blue marks. Then there is Mental Abuse and Financial Abuse. Some people have been abused for such a long time some do not even know that they are being abused. For them it is a way of life.

We, as a free nation should be aware of what is happening to one of our greatest as-

sets the elderly, our seniors.

I do not believe that just because someone is up in years that they should be considered useless or a burden. These elders should be looked at as an encyclopedia, a book of knowledge. Just take a second to think of all the knowledge that our elders have locked up in their minds. They have seen so seen and done so much.

All anyone has to do is to sit and talk with some of the elders and you would be amazed at what you can learn.

There should be an Elder Visitation Month, designated to just visiting and learn-

ing from these many amazing people whom some call a burden. Try making it a point to visit someone who is in a nursing home, assisted living facility or just living alone.

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rewarding volunteer work that you can ever want to do. Helping those who cannot help themselves.

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Beach Closings

OCALA – The Marion County Health Department is temporarily closing the following bathing areas due to elevated levels of bacteria.

- Carney Island Park Beach
- Hampton Beach
- Lake Bryant Mobile Home Resort Beach
- Johnson's Beach

Water sampling from the Tuesday, June 15, 2010, revealed that the locations listed had enterococci bacteria levels higher than what is recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A second, confirmatory water sampling test, on Thursday, June 17, 2010, confirmed the initial testing.

Enterococci are bacteria found in the intestines of all warm blooded animals. Swimming in contaminated water increases the risk of ear and skin infections. Accidental inhalation or consumption of contaminated

water can lead to respiratory or gastrointestinal illnesses.

The Marion County Health Department's Environment Health unit conducts biweekly water testing of 24 permitted public bathing places as part of its mission to promote and protect the health of the people of Marion County. Biweekly test are conducted on Tuesday and if water sampling fails to meet the EPA recommendation, confirmation sampling is conducted on Thursday.

Information from biweekly water testing can be obtained by calling (352) 622-7744. Additional information about water quality is available on the Florida Department of Health's website at www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/water/index.html.

For more information contact the Marion County Health Department at (352) 629-0137.

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How do you like Obama Now?

(Continued from Page 1)

is suffering from a severe case of: “Wax in the ears.”

Let us crank it up a notch, and appeal to a higher authority.

JULY 4 at NOON, is it a date?

Then we’ll ask: Congress one more time: can you hear us now? If their ear-itis continues, we keep asking the help of God.

I do believe, I do believe, I do believe. Am I in Kansas (Christian American Republic) yet?

The Tea Party Requests a Hearing

History tells us how lucky Americans are. For thousands of years humans have been enslaved. Americans have something

rare, precious, and totally unique. Freedom has rung in our land, if the bell stops ringing: Freedom will vanish from the face of the earth. I kind of like freedom. How about you? If it hung around for a while longer, I could live with that.

So, why the stampede to get rid of such a precious commodity?

Say the word: FREEDOM. Let it sink in. It even has a nice sound as well as a nice meaning. Freedom, Freedom, Freedom, I like it.

What does that mean? Each one of us has a slightly different meaning.

But a broad general meaning, as meant by our founding fathers is: GOVERNMENT OUT OF OUR BUSINESS, OUT OF OUR

LIVES. We behave, leave us alone.

In the not too distant past an inebriated man made a profound comment on our society. He said: “Why can’t we all just get along?”

Indeed we do ourselves a great disservice when we bicker, and those who would control us know this. Let us fool them, and turn the tables on them.

Get along, and make certain we all have a level playing field. Fair is fair. Isn’t that

what we all want?

The top and bottom classes are the bread in our human sandwich. The middle class is the peanut butter. Lately, the peanut ball has shrunk, and it is so small, and it is spread so thin it can barely cover the bread. What will happen when a new avalanche of new taxes is added to our burden?

Vanishing peanut butter.

God bless America.

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—Mike Netherclift

THE WORLD IN REVERSE

Social Security...Is it really Social Insecurity?

President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law on August 14, 1935. He believed the program would eliminate the blight of poverty from the lives of elderly Americans. Originally its purpose was to partially replace income lost due to retirement in old age. Seventy-five years later, Social Security is the major source of income for most senior retirees. According to the Social Security Administration, more than 46 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits. The average monthly

benefit paid to a retired worker is approximately \$950.00 while the average benefit paid to a spouse is approximately \$500.00. Today, nine out of ten seniors receive Social Security benefits. About two-thirds of all seniors age 65 and above receive 50% or more of their total income from Social Security. Social Security lifts more than one in every three elderly Americans out of poverty. Social Security is one in every five senior retiree's sole source of income. When you consider that America is the wealthiest nation in the world, it is a travesty that 20% of our retired seniors are at or near the

poverty level. Unfortunately, this presents a tremendous problem for those who only live on their monthly social security benefit. With limited monthly cash flow and with the costs of goods and services increasing, many senior households are losing the ability to create options in their lives. This can create financial and psychological stress for seniors that can ultimately affect health and well being. Without options the golden years can be bleak!

Thanks to an act of Congress and Ronald Reagan signing it into law in 1988, senior homeowners 62 years of age and older have the opportunity to create new financial options in their lives by participating in the federally insured and guaranteed FHA/HUD Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program. Through this program, seniors can tap into the trapped equity in their homes and receive monthly payments for life, a lump sum distribution, or place part or all of the proceeds into a growing line of credit. All money received tax free! Most importantly there is never a monthly house payment while the home is occupied. Homeowners retain the ownership (title) of their home and no debt can ever be passed onto the kids (heirs). There are no health, income, or credit qualifications. All you need is limited or full equity in your home.

If you are one of those senior homeowners living on a monthly social security benefit, you should take a serious look at this program. The HECM federally insured reverse mortgage can allow seniors to dramatically improve monthly cash flow. Senior homeowners can treat their home's equity just like their monthly Social Security ben-

efit and continue to live in their home for the remainder of their lives without having to pay the money back. This senior only program, designed by our federal government, can now create new options and increase the quality of retirement by paying the senior homeowner back for a lifetime of hard work.

The Wall Street Journal wrote that over 16 million senior households will be eligible to take advantage of the federally insured HECM program. To put this in perspective, only approximately 1% of this vast number of senior households have actually done a HECM reverse mortgage to date. This HECM program will experience exponential growth in the coming years. With help from the equity in your home, and through a perfect senior only HECM reverse mortgage program, social security doesn't have to be social insecurity.

Mike Netherclift is a contributing writer for the Lady Lake Magazine, Senior Voice, and Village Spectator. He is Florida's self-proclaimed #1 Home Equity Conversion Mortgage Crusader and advocate for senior citizens. Mike is also a Regional Vice President with Unity Reverse Mortgage and the weekly radio host of the "World In Reverse" heard on Sunny 720 WRZN AM on Sunday mornings at 9am. If you would like to book Mike to speak to your organization or senior club about the federally insured HECM Reverse Mortgage or listen to a free 3 minute educational recording on the HECM reverse mortgage, call 1-800-830-1261. To contact Mike via phone or email, call toll free at 866.656-8540 or 362-2145 or email him at MNetherclift@UnityReverse.com.

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Building Operation Gets Reorganized

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 15, 2010) – Marion County commissioners adopted a modified plan to reorganize the Marion County Building Division during today's board meeting. This action came after a May 12, 2010, workshop in which commissioners directed staff to establish a reorganization plan to improve efficiency and customer service. The reorganization plan called for the following:

Staff request: Allow the building division to operate as a separate county department.

Commission action: Commissioners decided through consensus discussion today and on May 12 that the building operation should become a separate department. Previously, it was one of four divisions under the Growth Management Department led by Jimmy Massey. Now, Glen Fiorello will manage the building operation as a self-sustaining department. Fiorello started with Marion County on Jan. 5, 2010, and oversees building functions, including inspections, permitting and customer service. He will report to Assistant County Administra-

tor Larry Thacker.

Staff request: Increase current staffing by six people, including five customer service representatives and one staff assistant. Since June 2007, amidst the decline of the housing market, the building department eliminated 77 positions.

Commission action: In a unanimous decision, commissioners voted to hire two of the requested six positions and re-evaluate staffing needs once the new fiscal year starts in October.

Staff request: Restore building employee salaries by five percent now and an additional five percent during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, during the construction bust, then County Administrator Pat Howard approved a 10 percent reduction in building department employee pay to make up for revenue shortfalls within the department. Those salary reductions went into effect in February 2009 and impacted 18 building department employees.

Commission action: In a unanimous vote, commissioners denied this request

and instead decided to discuss this option as part of the upcoming budget workshops. Commissioners said they may be willing to restore employee salaries in the new fiscal year. However, they did not decide on a finite percentage.

Staff request: Reclassify two positions to better reflect the roles and responsibilities of

staff.

Commission action: In a unanimous decision, commissioners voted to reclassify one position from senior plans examiner to building official. However, instead of reclassifying the second position, commissioners directed Fiorello to use an on-call inspector as needed.

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Freshwater Hazard

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADVISES COMMUNITY OF FRESHWATER HAZARD

As local temperature increases the threat of a deadly amoeba increases in bodies of freshwater –

OCALA – As summer approaches and local temperatures rise, the Marion County Health Department is advising citizens to take precautions while swimming in warm freshwater lakes and ponds due to the threat posed by the amoeba *Naegleria fowleri*.

“There is an increased risk of infection by *Naegleria fowleri* in all freshwater areas in Florida, especially during hot summer months,” said Dr. Nathan Grossman, director of the Marion County Health Department. “If citizens are going to participate in any activities involving bodies of freshwater, they should closely monitor their health

and seek medical treatment if infection is suspected.”

Naegleria fowleri is a naturally occurring microscopic amoeba commonly found in the bottom of freshwater lakes and ponds. Although infection with the amoeba is very rare, the risk of infection by *Naegleria fowleri* is most common when water temperatures exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Infection, known as primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), occurs when the amoeba enters the body through the nose and travels to the brain and spinal cord.

The following precautions are advised to decrease the possibility of infection:

Wear nose clips or hold the nose shut when swimming, jumping or diving in any freshwater. Avoid water-related activities in warm freshwater during periods of high water temperature and low water levels.

Avoid digging in or stirring up the sediment while taking part in water-related activities in shallow, warm freshwater areas.

Symptoms of *Naegleria fowleri* infection include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, seizures, hallucinations, and loss of balance and bodily control. The disease

progresses rapidly and can result in death within 3 to 7 days.

Properly cleaned, maintained and chlorinated pools do not pose a risk for infection.

For more information, contact the Marion County Health Department at (352) 629-0137.

PSC Approves Spring Contract for Relay Service

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) today voted to extend the Sprint Relay contract option for one year beginning June 1, 2011, thus locking in lower rates for the nearly three million hard-of-hearing, deaf, deaf/blind, and speech impaired Floridians using the service.

In 2005, Sprint Communications Company L.P. (Sprint) and the PSC signed a three-year contract to provide relay services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing that contained extension options for four additional one-year periods. Today’s PSC approval is the fourth and final option year of the Sprint contract.

Contract rates paid for traditional telecommunications relay service (TRS) will be \$0.89 cents per minute and \$1.54 per minute for CapTel captioning service. Florida’s rates continue to rank below the average TRS and CapTel rates charged in other states.

“We’re pleased to see Sprint continue providing services for Florida’s hearing impaired residents at lower rates than other

states,” said PSC Chairman Nancy Argenziano. “One sixth of Florida’s population needs this vital service to be able to connect to family, friends, and businesses by telephone.”

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Florida’s relay service facilitates telephone calls between people with hearing loss or speech disabilities and other individuals by using special equipment and a communications assistance operator to relay information.

The PSC is committed to making sure that Florida’s consumers receive their electric, natural gas, telephone, water, and wastewater services in a safe, affordable, and reliable manner. The PSC exercises regulatory authority over utilities in the areas of rate base/economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitors safety, reliability, and service.

For additional information, visit www.floridapsc.com.

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIE TIME

When: Tuesday & Wednesday, July 13th & 14th at 8th Avenue Senior Center "IT'S COMPLICATED"

Thursday & Friday, July 15th & 16th at Ocala Senior Activity Center "IT'S COMPLICATED"

Starring: Meryl Streep, Steve Martin, Alec Baldwin, Lake Bell and others. An aged, divorced mother becomes "the other woman" in her ex-husband's life when the pair enters into an unexpected affair during an out-of-town trip. Jane (Streep) has been divorced from Jake (Baldwin) for a decade. The mother of three grown children, she owns a successful bakery/restaurant and maintains a friendly relationship with Jake, who has since been remarried to the much younger Agnes (Bell). Jane and Jake are attending their son's college graduation, when they agree to an innocent meal together. Before long simple dinner has erupted into an all-out affair, and when architect Adam (Martin) falls for Jane, he realizes he's been drawn into a most peculiar love triangle.

RATED R

When: Tuesday & Wednesday, July 27th & 28th at 8th Avenue Senior Center "UP IN THE AIR"

Thursday & Friday, July 29th & 30th at Ocala Senior Activity Center "UP IN THE AIR"

Starring: George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, Anne Kendrick and more. Ryan Bingham (Clooney) makes his living personally handing out pink slip. She's the top hatchet man at a company that other companies hire when they are downsizing. During one particular layover, he strikes up a conversation with Alex Goran (Farmiga), a fellow savvy traveler. They are figuring out when their schedules will allow them to meet up again. When Ryan arrives back in the home office, he meets no-nonsense career-oriented Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick), a fast-rising up-and-comer, who wants to change the company's practices. Furious at the thought of losing a lifestyle he's grown comfortable with, he convinces his boss to let him take Natalie on a few trips so that she can

learn what it's really like to fire someone. **RATED R**

Time: 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. at 8th Avenue Senior Center - Telephone: 629-8545

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. at Ocala Senior Activity Center - Telephone: 629-8357

What: Enjoy a free movie in a comfortable setting. Please call the center of your choice to reserve your seat. **COMING IN AUGUST: "INVICTUS" "TOOTH FAIRY"**

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

When: Thursdays

Time: 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. for class and 12:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. for lab sessions

Where: Ocala Senior Activity Center, 210 NW 12th Avenue, Ocala Telephone: 629-8357

Cost: \$70.00 for singles and \$100.00 for couples, payable in advance of class starting time.

What: We have easy classes for the beginner student. Learn what a personal computer can do for you. We offer an introductory class in word processing. Beginner classes are for 6 consecutive weeks on Mondays, 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. and workshops (lab classes) are 12:30 P.M. to 3:30

P.M. Advanced classes are offered for Database, Spreadsheet, the Internet and more. The lab instructor will be available during labs on Mondays.

AQUABILITY

When: Tuesdays Session 2: July 6th thru July 27th Session 3: August 3rd thru August 24th

Time: 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Where: Hampton Aquatic Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd., Ocala

Cost: \$20.00 per participant for each 4 week session. What: An adaptive aquatic program for individuals with disabilities of all ages. For information and registration, please call 352-401-3916. Each participant will be assigned a "swim buddy" to assist them in the water. Those interested in becoming volunteer "swim buddies" must become a Ocala recreation & Parks registered volunteer. For additional information, call Diane at 401-3916.

HURRICANE PREPARATION SEMINAR

When: Thursday, July 8, 2010

Time: 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

(Continued on Page 14)



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 13)

Cost: Free
What: Captain Chip Wildy from Marion County Sheriff's Department of Emergency Management will speak on Hurricane Preparedness for Marion County. Hear how hurricanes have affected Marion County in the past and what to expect for the future. Receive your "Healthy Tips" and "Emergency Preparation" brochures to help you prepare for this hurricane season. Refreshments and Prizes too! Please pre-register to 629-8545.

Coming in August:

AGELESS AQUA/WATER AERO-

BICS FOR SENIORS

When: Fridays – August 6th thru Sept. 3rd.

Time: 10:00 A.M. to 10:50 A.M.

Cost: \$20.00 for six week session

Where: Hampton Aquatic Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd., Ocala

What: Ageless aqua is a water fitness class for active seniors. It focuses on enhancing movement, strengthening muscles and increasing your range of motion. Music provides the backdrop for an enjoyable class that is designed to get you moving. Modifications will be demonstrated for all fitness levels.



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