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A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

DownTown

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FREE

Volume 2 Issue 3

March, 2011

Wedding Expo



MY WEDDING DAY EXPO was at the CF Ewers Century Center (SR 200-Ocala) on Thursday, February 3 from 5 to 9pm. A great line-up of Professional Wedding Vendors ready to serve you! Events for both men and women including great prizes and fantastic give-a-ways!

This Expo's Charity, Kids Central, Inc. – A \$3.00 donation was requested at the door for an Incredible Night!

Charles Gordan says “thanks to all the vendors, guests, CF Conference Services, the Kids Central for attending!”

He is looking forward to the next show scheduled for August 2011!

Wedding Professionals from the Ocala/Marion County area were on-hand to talk with and collect information for many bride and grooms' upcoming Wedding Day! Featuring many door prizes, grand prizes, live

entertainment, food, fashion exhibition, and more!

TAKE NOTE => There were activities for both the ladies and the men ...so the guys, won't have to skip this event!

Donations collected from the Wedding Expo were \$324.00 with \$200.00 donated by Charles Gordon of Charles Gordon Photography and Jackson Koontz of Action Jackson Koontz – Studio & Productions, Manager Greg Ostberg from Dillard's also donated \$50.00. Grand total to Kids Central was \$574.00

About the organizers. These Two Guys Charles Gordon – Charles Gordon Photography with over 20 years of photography experience, Charles Gordon is dedicated to making his clients' photography experience fun, easy and enjoyable. Charles will

(Continued on Page 4)

Ocala Tea Party



The Ocala Tea Party is keeping the pressure on. They want campaign promises kept. A reminder once every month or so won't hurt a thing. I have already had a campaign promise broken.



Stop Complaining

Pass the word
STOP COMPLAINING!

By TomL

Stop Complaining! This is one person's opinion, MINE!

I have complained and am as guilty as the next person. When you complain you hear more complaining back. While listening to a sermon in church I realized the importance of it all. Of course the church version is different than the version I present to you today, nevertheless I will attempt to apply it to business, which is real life also.

Have you ever closed a big deal while complaining? Have you ever closed a big deal while listening to complaining?

COMPLAINING STOPS YOUR FORWARD MOTION!

Negative communication in general stops all forward motion. The only way to succeed is to keep pressing forward. When you complain to someone, they listen and most generally complain back or agree with what was

said, so that created a response. This could go on for some time, meanwhile forward motion has stopped.

What is considered complaining?

If you are discussing something and talking about an incident or a thing that you are trying to fix with solutions and it's considered your business, then it is not complaining. Actually more big deals are closed by listening than talking. If you are talking you're not hearing the other person's view, which could close your deal.

If you are discussing a person that is causing a problem there is a fine line. Most of the time it is none of your business unless, of course, it is harmful to the people you are responsible for or your family. Saying something negative about another person is complaining. It will not solve problems and will not make you money and will make you no friends. It has no place in a conversation outside of family talking about family

(Continued on Page 3)

Business Tips

You are in business and you know what your business goals are but you're having trouble reaching them? While traveling the business highway, you get one block away from your business goal only to see a sign

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**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS
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Left: Pictured is a new Business member and our new category induction. Ocala Business Leaders are inducting new members every month. The Club is growing. About 60 to 70 attend weekly breakfasts every wednesday. Businesses are welcome to come visit, have a free Breakfast and you will be given a chance to tell everyone who you are and what you do. The OBL Mission Statement is "Connecting Ocala Business Leaders with everyone we meet." Come visit, Ocala Elks club 7 am Wednesday morning. Tell them Tom sent you. It's like having 100 sales people working for you in the business world.



TJ Moon addressing the Ocala Business Leaders giving them a 10 minute informmercial. TJ does web design and owns Moonscapes.



Dr Joe Hutchison with Fakhoury Medical and Chiropractic Center. Doing a ten minute Informmercial at OBL. He comes with BS NeuroAnatomy, UT 2003 he is DC Dr. of Chiropractic Palmer College 2009. Certified - Activator Level 1, Graston level 1, Cox F/D, Sports Meds Kinesio Taping, Wilderness 1st responder. Fakhoury Medical and Chiropractic Center.

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March

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Junior League of Ocala Holds BBQ Contest

The Junior League of Ocala, a non profit committed to improving the lives of women and children through community outreach and public service, is hosting a BBQ contest at the Florida Horse park on May 14, 2011. The contest, Pig Out! The Junior League of Ocala's BBQ Bash, is sanctioned by the Florida BBQ Association (FBA) and will host professional BBQ-ers from around the state of Florida. Professional cooks will be judged by FBA judges, competing for prize money and can gain points for FBA Team of the Year. In addition, local cooks and seasoned BBQ-ers are invited to participate in the "Backyard" division, where their prepared meats will be judged by FBA accredited judges.

The categories include chicken, ribs, brisket and pork. A people's choice division will also give guests the option of sampling the prepared BBQ for a chance to vote for Pig Out's Backyard champion. Classic concessions, family-friendly events, games, and live music will entertain Pig Out guests. During this first local event of its kind, Pig Out promises to give Ocala a real taste of the south! For competitor, participant, vendor, sponsorship, or ticket information, email jlobbq@gmail.com or visit www.juniorleagueofocala.com or contact Brittany Batsel or Jennifer Hatchett at 352-817-7122 or 352-598-8567. Admission for adults is \$2.00. Children 12 and under FREE.

Stop Complaining

(Continued from Page 1)

problems during a family discussion. Saying something positive about another person is praising them, not complaining and it's a good thing and you can't do that enough.

Most of the people that I consider people of wisdom have been good listeners. All have been compassionate about others while listening to negative vibes. I have never asked a person of wisdom their opinion that I got answers I was expecting. They look at things through a different set of eyes which gives them different results. They have a tendency to be more complacent. Ideas; many great ideas were spouted as a joke during a meeting where others were listening, the idea was discussed, molded, remolded and put into action. Be careful how you pick

the person you listen too. It takes time to choose a person of character and wisdom. A great source of wisdom is in a group called SCORE much wisdom comes from them. Always try to listen to the mature person, they are older and wiser. You will be surprised what you learn. So don't complain, listen and apply what you learn.

Don't Make Excuses

If you are making excuses, you are not pressing forward.

So here we are with three very important things that I am going to attempt to do for the rest of this year.

1. Stop Complaining. and listen more.
2. Mind your own business.
3. Don't make excuses.

One persons opinion! TomL said that!

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

WOW! Our world is full of complicated issues. Our daily lives get more complicated every day. I like to keep it simple. Our company has a rate card that is the same in Marion County as it is in Lake county. On that same rate card is our insertion order/contract and a description of where and how many papers go out. Simple and effective.

When our bills go out, included is a self addressed return envelope to ensure fast response. We advertise our cell phones for fast access to each person in sales including myself. If you call a salesperson and they don't respond fast enough for you there are three other people available. I say keeping it simple is the best thing you can do for your customers.

Contracts with people you don't know have become more important than ever. I have heard almost every excuse in the book for not paying. Beware, do not build a reputation of giving an excuse instead of payment. No one will want to do business with you.

What are the nine most dangerous words today. "I'm from the Government and I'm here to help!" Who said that? Ronald Reagan!

'To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.' When God takes something from your grasp, he's not punishing you, but merely opening your hands to receive something better. Concentrate on this sentence... 'The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.'

Did you know that we the Taxpayers are paying \$162,000,000 in legal fees for Fanny and Freddie top executives' legal defense. There are 24 lawyers minimum working on this case that we are paying for. They have admitted to over-stating profits of \$10,000,000 so they would receive \$115,000,000 in extra bonuses that one year. They are guilty of plunging the country into economic chaos and we are expected to pay their legal fees. Who OK'd the use of taxpayer money for their defense???

Along the same line if the City/County/State want to confiscate your property, they have to pay your legal fees. When the state wanted to extend the turnpike some years back the people that would lose property were urged by me to file separate law suits so that it would cost the state way too much to fight the issue. The state decided to table it. At one meeting I was asked to step out of a meeting to talk to a turnpike representative. He asked "why are you so set

against the extension? Look at the business at the end of the turnpike now", as if he was proud. UGGGG! By the way they wanted to go through my land that I had been paying for and living on for over 30 years. My statement was easy. The turnpike cut off the water flow from east to west in most of the state. I watched cypress trees die. Every time I get on the turnpike there is major

construction going on which is not good for travelers. The state has created a large machine of state employees that taxpayers are paying for and last but not least, I would not want what is at the end of the turnpike moving to my neighborhood. Enough said. The rep said "I'm sorry you disagree" and I went back into the meeting.

Wedding Expo

(Continued from Page 1)

strive to consider the client's needs, as well as provide a professional portrait experience partnered with a satisfaction guarantee as he strives to become their first choice in portrait needs.

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Scandinavian Club

The Scandinavian Club of Marion County invites people of Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian and Swedish descent to join us at our next meeting on March 19, 2011. We will meet at the Hilton Ocala, 3600 SW 36th Avenue in Ocala. The menu will be Roast Beef Au Jus with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by the Alter Egos. The cost is \$15 per per-

son and reservations and advance payment are required. Payment must be received by Wednesday, March 16. Please make checks payable to Bill Thompson, the club's treasurer, and mail to him at 582 Dowling Circle, Lady Lake, FL 32159. For further details call Don Clauson 861-1235, Lillian Woodman 873-0427 or Bill Thompson 352-751-5174.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for April

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, March 16th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, March 23rd

Ocala DownTown

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The Cost of Living

By Charlotte Poss.

If you live on Social Security, have Medicare and maybe a small supplement you are hurting financially. Our Government tells everyone that the cost of living (COLA) will not increase again this year. Why? Be-

cause they say that the cost of living did not increase.

Well, the Government should start doing their own shopping. The cost of coffee did not go up the packing looks the same but the small print on a 3 pound size can now states,

24 oz. if that is not an increase of cost I don't know what is.

Coffee is just one item. If you check the ounces on items that you buy on a regular basis you will find the weight is going down, the size of the packaging stays the same and sometimes the cost stays the same. But, you are really paying more for that item. Your Social Security check will not increase, you are getting less for your buck and the government states that the cost of living did not increase.

Gas prices keep going up and your mileage keeps going down. You cannot go as far on a gallon of gas as you used to. It seems you are filling your tank more often. Well, you are. The amount of ethanol that they put in the product increases all the time and

your mileage goes down. Is that not another increase in cost other than the dollar & cents raise that keeps adding on at the pump.

Greed, has taken over. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. That has never changed. "We", "The People", need a revolution. A peaceful one. The people have to start saying enough is enough. Make our government accountable and responsible. We are not a stupid population that believes everything we hear or read but we do know that the COST OF LIVING has gone up. Start giving those who depend on Social Security their due. Everyone should start complaining and put their two cents in and ask for change.

True or False

1952 President Truman established one day a year as a "National Day of Prayer."

1988 President Reagan designated the First Thursday in May of each year as the "National Day of Prayer."

2007 June Presidential Candidate Barack Obama declared that the USA "Was no longer a Christian nation."

President Obama canceled the 21st annual National Day of Prayer ceremony at the White House "not wanting to offend anyone"

September 25, 2009 from 4 AM until 7 PM, a National Day of Prayer FOR THE MUSLIM RELIGION was held on Capitol Hill, beside the White House.

There were over 50,000 Muslims in D.C. that day.

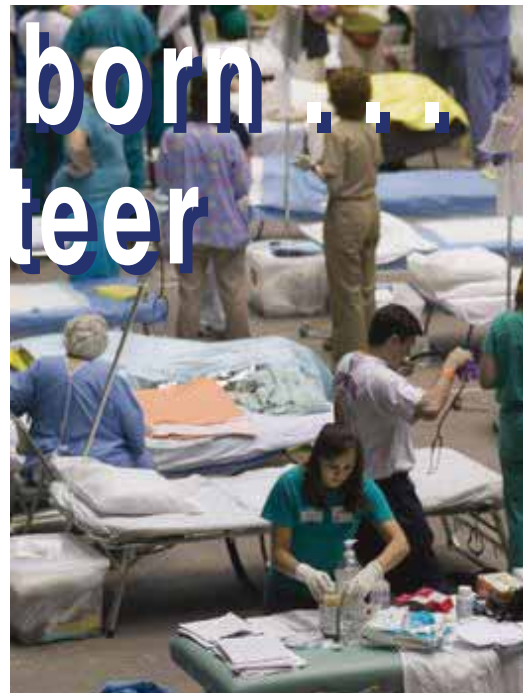
What do you think?

Arts & Crafts Show March 19th

Queen of Peace Catholic Church 7th Annual Arts & Crafts Show, Saturday March 19th, from 9:00AM to 2:00PM in the Parish Hall. The event is sponsored by the Council of Catholic Women and will consist of mixed media.

Forty plus vendors will provide a variety of products. Many new this year. Lunch served from 11:00AM-1:00PM. Come join us as we promote and share the fine arts. Something for everyone. Admission free.

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GFWC Woman's Club Yard Sale

The GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala will conduct a Yard Sale Saturday, March 5, and Sunday, March 6, at the Boulevard Centre, 3391 E. Silver Springs Boulevard, Unit D. The hours on Saturday will be 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Sunday, it will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the club's annual scholarship recipients. We will accept donations at specified times. Please contact Fran-

ces Kolonia, 629-7397, or Mary Lou Todd, 694-3847. The Woman's Club of Ocala is a non-profit organization formed in Ocala in 1909 and its mission is community service. We are members of the GFWC Florida Federation and the General Federation of Women's Club International. We welcome new members. For information contact Frances Kolonia, President.



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Governor Rick Scott Announces Budget Proposals

Naples, Fla. - Keeping in line with his 7-7-7 plan and his plan to modernize the Florida Retirement System, Governor Rick Scott announced today that he would send the Legislature a budget proposal that better aligns government workers' pensions with those in the private sector and saves taxpayers \$2.8 billion over two years.

Governor Scott announced that the savings would be realized by requiring government employees to contribute five percent of their salaries to the system and requiring new employees to enroll in investment plans similar to private sector 401(k)s.

"We must bring Florida in line with the private sector and nearly every other state in the country by requiring government workers to contribute towards their own retirement," said Governor Scott.

The Governor also announced his intention to close the Deferred Retirement Option Program to new participants as of July 1, 2011, and to reduce the annual service credit to 1.6 percent for most members (special risk class members, to two percent).

Governor Scott said the Cost of Living Adjustment on retirement benefits will be eliminated for all service earned after July 1, 2011. Current retirees will be unaffected. Those members retiring after July 1, 2011, will receive a three percent Cost of Living Adjustment on the retirement benefit attributable to the service earned prior to July 1, 2011, and no cost of living adjustment for service earned after July 1, 2011.

"Government workers, like private sector employees, deserve the opportunity to save for the future, but taxpayers shouldn't be asked to foot that bill alone."

Governor Scott said that modernizing the Florida Retirement System would help reduce spending and help get government back to its core missions Governor Scott will send his full budget proposals to the Legislature on Monday, February 7th.

For additional information about our firm, daily news headlines and stories and links to various political and governmental resources, please visit our website located at www.corcoranfirm.com

Don't Forget - Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13th



The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the first annual Health and Wellness Exposition on Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM at the Paddock Mall (3100 SW College Road, Ocala, FL 34474.)

The purpose of the event is to increase the awareness of all forms of healthcare and health living opportunities available in Marion County. From health and wellness providers to nutritionists, fitness experts and insurance carriers, a variety of areas of interest will be showcased at the event.

For more information contact Miranda Anderson at 352-629-8051, ext. 106.

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Think about this. How many people do you know who are smart enough to lead perfect lives? Then how many people are smart enough to lead, and control the lives of every human on this planet?

Hmmmmmm. None. I cannot think of one person.

Strange isn't it that each generation seems to grow a new crop of these power lusting know-it-alls. The book Dupes by Paul Kengor {among other things} outlines this scenario so clearly.

What to do? What to do?

Reasoning and logic does not work with this group of individuals. Doesn't it seem as

though this might be some form of mental defect? Illness?

It has been perfectly acceptable, {since Plato called us CATTLE, and described how we were to be controlled. Thank you Plato.}, for that label to be pinned on us by every power luster since. Power lusters use this excuse to justify their march to power. They are doing us a favor by enslaving us. Who needs friends with enemies like this?

Doesn't it seem fair that we cattle coin a name for them: Power Lusters?

Does every generation have to participate in this dance for domination, and endure the accompanying carnage? Can't we learn to push back as hard as they press forward to

enslave us?

Can't we just say: "NO"?

Anyone have a better suggestion?

D.I. L.

To the editor

Now that the President has sent his budget to Congress, why isn't there more to reduce the deficit and incentives to create jobs?

The projected deficit of \$1.65 trillion for this current year is the highest ever for this Country. The national debt would grow to approximately \$16.7 trillion by 2012. Who owns most of our debt and who do we pay interest to daily but China. As a Country we cannot continue to spend our way out of debt. The debt is becoming insurmountable. The Presidents idea of "trimming" the deficit by \$1.1 trillion over "ten" years and adding \$8 billion to the deficit in 2012 alone

is going to do nothing. Does this Country need money spent on high-speed rail. Not as far as I am concerned. Does this Country need to tap the vast oil resources right here in the United States and not have to rely on the Middle East. As far as I am concerned the answer is YES. Resources need to be developed in order to produce revenue. Debt must be paid.

We keep hearing about „tough choices and sacrifices% however, in the next breath who is expected to make sacrifices, but those seniors who are on Medicare and Social Security and who have paid into the system for years. If the government hadn't taken from the fund and replaced it with IOU's there would be sufficient money to pay for Medicare and Social Security. Stop looking at Medicare and Social Security and start looking at ALL the entitlements. Another way to reduce the deficit is to stop giving money to organizations that should be receiving private money and not government money.

R.A.K.

Dear Editor:

A citation in the book Dupes by Paul Kengor Page 12, states that 100 million people were killed, over the span of 70 years, by the followers of Communism. {This does not include Hitler's carnage}.

Does this make those 70 years, the bloodiest in human history?

This is the path to civility? I do not think so.

Are we, in this new 21st century, trying for a new record? Will we ever learn?

Once again we seem poised on the brink of another bloodbath. Faced this time by two groups of blood lusters: the Globalists, and the Islamic terrorists.

Controlling the cattle {Plato} of the world has taken on new meaning with the escalation of fire power. The Coliseum is mere child's play compared to the power lusters of today.

Will we, can we, stop the coming carnage? Just say: "No thank you, we have had enough." This ego feeding stops here, and now, with us.

OR, do we entreat GOD to come to our rescue? Ask God to take care of the problem? Give us the miracle we desperately need. Could hope for this needed miracle be in Egypt? Say a prayer, now. Yeah, 20, 50, 100 prayers.

These are our only two options to avoid another bloodbath.

The third option is unthinkable: another staggering pile of bodies Power lusters know no bounds. Have no Common Sense.

Do we take a stand????? Stop the carnage!

D. I. L.

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Hospice of Marion County Names Employee of the Year

A Long Way from Haiti

Hospice of Marion County's Employee of the Year is.....

Mireille Francois! Shock and delight spread across Mireille's face when the announcement was made at the Ocala Hilton gala event, January 29. The annual Employee Excellence Awards dinner recognizes the organization's 12 most outstanding employees from the previous year. Mireille, a certified nursing assistant, was singled out for the top honor for her tireless dedication to those most special to her...the patients in her charge who are in their last phase of life.

Born in Haiti, Mireille immigrated to Miami in 1997 and settled in Ocala in 2005. Here she enjoys the community lifestyle of Marion Oaks and began a career with hospice.

Mireille was drawn to the caring profession after the death of her diabetic mother, for whom she was the caregiver. Afterward, Mireille wished she could have given her mother even better care, so she took the necessary training and now offers that higher level of "compassion with a smile" to her patients at the comforting hospice houses known as Estelle's and Sylvia's, operated by Hospice of Marion County. It is in this serene environment of the hospice houses that Mireille has truly found a "home."

But Mireille also has family who still call Haiti home, so over the years she has visited frequently. In January 2010, she traveled to her homeland for the last time, returning just days before the earthquake struck. Mireille lost several family members in the tragedy and has not been able to go back since.

Here in her adopted home, she has found fulfillment helping families through the most difficult of life's transitions. A co-worker observed her one day soon after the Haiti disaster as Mireille was leaving work, pocket-book in hand, when she heard a patient call for the nurse. Because everyone else was busy, Mireille patiently put down her purse and went to the patient. She knew this patient wanted to go outdoors and was sitting up in bed ready to go, so she took him for a walk: "It could have been his last walk," she says matter-of-factly. "Sometimes the simple things make patients so happy." This unselfish giving and professionalism during her personal time of grief demonstrates Mireille's "hospice heart."

When she was presented with her "employee of the year" award, Mireille quietly accepted saying, "I love my job and I love my patients." For that devotion, she was presented with a \$500 check, a trophy and the admiration of her co-workers.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MARCH, 2011 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

MOVIE TIME

When: Tues. & Wed., March 8th & 9th at 8th Ave. Sr. Center "The Other Guys" Starring: Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg, Eva Mendes, Michael Keaton, Dwayne Johnson, Samuel Jackson and others. A desk-jockey detective and his tough-talking partner get their moment to shine in this buddy police

comedy. New York City detective Allen Gamble (Ferrell) is more comfortable pushing pencils than busting bad guys. A meticulous forensic accountant, his numbers are never off. Detective Terry Hoitz (Wahlberg) is Gamble's reluctant partner. Try as Detective Hoitz might to get back on the streets, an embarrassing encounter with Derek Jeter has left a sizeable black mark on his permanent record. Detectives Danson (Johnson)

and Highsmith (Jackson) are the complete opposites of Gamble and Hoitz: unwaveringly confident, they always get their man, and they do it with style to spare. When the time comes for Gamble and Hoitz to prove their mettle and save the day, their incompetence becomes the stuff of legend. RATED PG13

When: Tues. & Wed., March 22nd & 23rd at 8th Ave. Sr. Center "TICKING CLOCK" Starring: Cuba Gooding, Jr. and others. Seasoned crime journalist Lewis Hicks (Academy Award-winner Cuba Gooding, Jr.) races to prevent a notorious serial killer from striking again after discovering a detailed list of his forthcoming victims. RATED R - WARNING: This movie is intended for mature audiences only. It may contain violence, sexual content, drug abuse and/or strong language.

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

What: Enjoy a free movie in a comfortable setting. Please call the center to reserve your seat.

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When: Thursdays
Time: 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. for class, 12:30 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. for lab sessions and 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. for advanced classes.

Where: BGW Senior Activity Center, 210 NW 12th Avenue, Ocala Tel. 629-8357

Cost: \$75.00 for singles and \$110.00 for couples, and \$38.00 for singles in advanced classes payable in advance of class starting time.

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INCOME TAX HELP

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through April 15, 2011

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: BGW Senior Center, 210 NW 12th Avenue

When: Tuesdays ONLY through April 12, 2011

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Cost: Free

What: AARP Tax help is available at these Centers listed above. Please bring your driver's license or identification card, social security card and all tax documents. Please call the center(s) if you have questions about what documents to bring.

2011 PARADE OF SENIOR SERVICES

When: Friday, March 11, 2011

Time: 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Chief Nursing Officer Named



Joann Ankoviak, RN, MA, has been named Chief Nursing Officer for Ocala Regional Medical Center. Ankoviak will be in charge of day to day operations of the nursing staff, as well as develop, implement and interpret nursing and patient care policies, and maintenance of quality nursing care.

Ankoviak was previously Chief Nursing Officer at West Marion Community Hospital. She joined Ocala Health in 2003 and has held several positions with Ocala Health since that time.

Ankoviak has a master's degree in management and leadership from Webster University and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Northern Michigan University.

Workforce Connection in Talks

Workforce Connection in talks to modify green jobs training grant

(OCALA, FL) Feb. 15, 2011— Workforce Connection announced today it is recommending changes to a federal grant-supported green jobs program in an effort to better serve those who have already received training.

That means focusing on placement and other services for the 333 graduates of the West Ocala Green Jobs training program rather than adding more trainees to the program.

Workforce Connection CEO Rusty Skinner said that despite best efforts, the green jobs training program, funded by a \$2.9-million United States Department of Labor Pathways Out of Poverty grant, has been stymied by the continued slump in the economy as well as “a number of insurmountable challenges ... totally outside our control.”

Skinner said the organization is working with DOL to develop a transition plan which will include job placement services as well as return to DOL of unused grant dollars. Pathways partners, contracted to provide training, have been notified of pending changes.

According to Kathleen Woodring, Workforce Connection's chief operating officer, the move to modify the grant was a “business decision just as we've always done with all of our funding sources.”

“When you've trained enough, it's time to move on ... and work on the returns now

to have it turn out good in the end,” Woodring said, adding, “We're also trying to be good stewards of tax dollars.”

Workforce Connection submitted the grant in September 2009 after a pilot project garnered wide industry support in the design and development of recruitment criteria and curriculum. The program's goal was to reduce unemployment in the area's poorest communities while promoting small business development.

Skinner said that, in addition to the stalled economy, one of the factors that hampered small business' anticipated green jobs expansion was confusion over Florida's solar tax credit program, which at one point was cut by the state legislature.

“None of the problems with the grant are attributable to a lack of effort,” Skinner said. “(But) to continue this grant under these conditions would be like Ford deciding to continue making the Edsel after nobody wanted to buy it.”

###

Workforce Connection is a member of the Employ Florida network of workforce services and resources. Workforce Connection is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers listed above may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. If you need accommodations, please call 352-840-5700, ext. 7878 or e-mail accommodations@clmworkforce.com. Please make request at least three business days in advance.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 9)

Where: Ewers Century Center, College of Central Florida, 3001 SW College Road
Cost: Free

What: Over 50 government, non-profit, and/or public service agencies will be represented to provide literature, answer questions and offer services to the senior citizens of Marion County. Emergency management, police and fire services, tax counseling, voter registration, recreation opportunities, and representatives of our elected officials are just a touch of the services to be offered.

Call 401-3916 or 629-8545 for details.

TRIP: STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

When: Thursday, March 10th, 2011

Time: Leave 8:00 AM Return 7:00 PM
Leave from 8th Ave. Sr .Center

Where: Strawberry Festival, Plant City

Cost: \$34.50 per person

What: Enchanting festival featuring live entertainment, fantastic food, pageants, a parade, arts and crafts and of course Central Florida ripe luscious strawberries. Limited to 45 participants. Call Grace at 629-8357 for details.

INFORMATION SENIORS NEED TO KNOW!

LIVING HEALTHY WORKSHOP

When: Tuesdays, through March 15,

2011

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Where: BGW Senior Activity center

Cost: Free

What: Living Healthy Workshop (Chronic Disease Self Management) is a program that empowers older adults to take control of their health. You will learn how to live a healthy life in these two and one half hour interactive, six week workshops. "Living Healthy Workshops" are designed to educate participants about common chronic diseases, prevention strategies and regaining function.

SEMINAR: LEGAL ISSUES & IDENTITY THEFT

When: Thursday, March 3rd

Time: 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala Tel. 629-8545

Cost: Free

What: What is the one legal document everyone needs? Learn what legal documents are vital for your peace of mind. No one can totally eliminate the threat of identity theft, but there are many simple actions that everyone can do that will help keep secure what needs to be secure.

Presenters: Dick Kelly and Les Single-

ton of Pre-Paid Legal Services.

SEMINAR: "LIFE'S GREAT JOURNEY"

When: Thursday, March 24th

Time: 11:00 AM

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Ctr, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala Tel: 629-8545

Cost: Free with lunch following

What: What do we need to know at the time of the death of a loved one? What are the questions with which we will be confronted? This session will lead you through the steps from death to final resting. Reservations are required.

Please call 629-8545 to reserve your seat and lunch.

SEMINAR: "THE ERRATIC CYCLE OF GRIEF"

When: Thursday, March 31st

Time: 11:00 AM

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala Tel 629-8545

Cost: Free with lunch following

What: What is the definition of grief? What are the secrets to handling grief and can it be shortened? Reservations required.

Please call 629-8545 to reserve your seat and lunch.



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Long-Term Care: Planning for the Future

By Ron Pollack,
Executive Director, Families USA,
March 2011

It's nearing tax time, and that's a good time to think about financial planning. And when you make financial plans, don't forget to include long-term care needs you or your spouse might have in the future.

Long-term care is expensive, and Medicare does not cover the costs. And there are other reasons to plan ahead, to learn about your options for care before you need help. That way, if you need care suddenly, you and your family won't have to scramble. Equally important, you won't end up in a nursing home just because no one knew alternatives were available.

Long-term care isn't only about nursing homes. There are many options for care and support that can help you stay at home longer or even avoid a nursing home altogether. The "home- and community-based services" that can help you stay at home range from homemaker help, such as help preparing meals, to care provided by health professionals like nurses, and a lot in between: personal attendants can help you with daily activities and adult day services and respite services can give family caregivers a needed rest. You may want training to learn new skills if, for example, you start having vision trouble, or perhaps home modifications can help you get around your house better so

you can keep living at home.

What services are available will depend on where you live. Many seniors rely on state programs, like Medicaid, for their care. In states whose Medicaid programs invest more on home- and community-based services, there are generally more of these services available for everyone—even for people who don't use Medicaid.

The good news is that the Affordable Care Act—the new health care law—includes several new programs that will help people who need long-term care stay at home longer. New programs will give states financial incentives to expand the home- and community-based services they offer. Educational grants will ensure that there is an adequate, and adequately trained, workforce to provide home care as the population ages. Starting in 2014, the spouse of someone receiving care at home will be protected from having to spend all the couple's assets in order for their husband or wife to qualify for Medicaid; today, that protection exists only if the person needing care is in a nursing home.

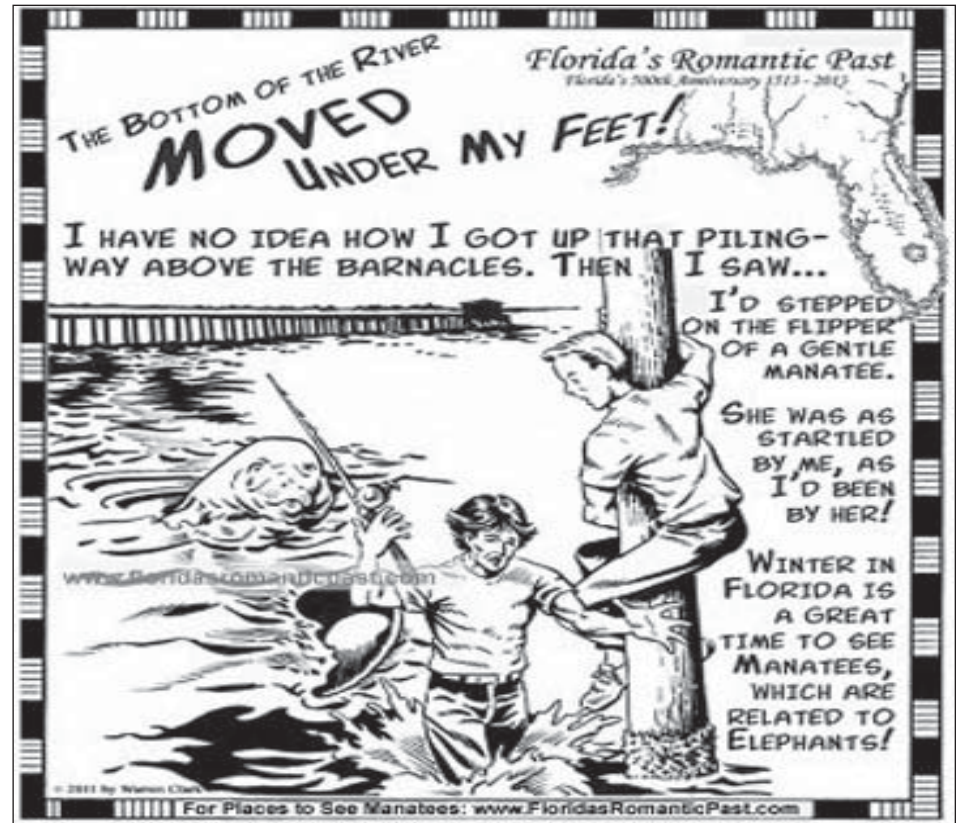
The law also includes a new voluntary federal long-term care insurance program, Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS), that will help pay for care. CLASS will be available to working adults, regardless of age or health, probably in 2013. To be eligible for benefits, you'll first need to be enrolled for five years. Af-

ter that, if you need long-term care, the program will provide an average benefit of at least \$50 a day (\$18,250 a year), adjusted for inflation. You can use that money to pay for assistance or other things you need to help you stay in your home. The program pays as long as you need care.

You still need to do your homework—plan your finances and learn what's available where you live. The Administration on Ag-

ing's ElderCare Locator, at 1-800-677-1116 or www.eldercare.gov, can help you find services in your community.

You can learn more about the new options in the long-term services section of Families USA's website, at www.familiesusa.org. And you need to keep an eye on what becomes available in your area. Because of health reform, there should be more choices that will help you stay at home.



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Slam Dunk Favorites

(Family Features) When March Madness tips off, I know it's time for some fun foods that will be slam-dunk favorites at game-watching parties.

Chips and other munchies are always good, but I thought I'd spice things up a bit with these two recipes - they're easy to hold and eat while cheering on our favorite underdogs.

* Tex-Mex seasonings liven up these mini meatballs, which are great for dipping in salsa and sour cream. Putting them on skewers makes them fun for guests of all ages.

* Smoked almonds team up with creamy Carnation to make a great blue cheese dip for wings, veggies or crackers. Be sure to have plenty of napkins!

hoopla of March Madness, including recipes, nutritional information and tips, visit www.TheCooking-Milk.com.

Mexi-Meatball Kabobs

Makes 30 servings, 2 skewers each

Prep: 35 minutes

Cooking: 15 minutes

Nonstick cooking spray

3 pounds lean ground beef

2 cups quick oats



For more ways to enjoy the

(Continued on Page 14)



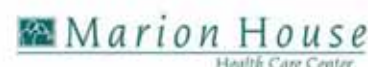
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Slam Dunk Favorites

(Continued from Page 13)

1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk

2 large eggs

1/2 cup ketchup

2 packets (1.25 ounces each) taco seasoning mix

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

3 large bell peppers (any color), cut into 60, 1-inch pieces

60 4-inch wooden skewers

Salsa and sour cream (optional)

PREHEAT oven to 350° F. Foil-line 3 baking sheets and spray with nonstick cooking spray.

COMBINE ground beef, oats, evaporated milk, eggs, ketchup, taco seasoning and black pepper in

large bowl until just mixed. Form mixture into 120, 1-inch meatballs. Place on prepared baking sheets.

BAKE for 15 to 20 minutes or until no longer pink in center. Drain on paper towels, if needed.

THREAD two meatballs and one piece of pepper on each skewer. Place on large serving platter. Serve with salsa and sour cream.

TIPS: Meatballs can be made

and baked ahead of time, refrigerated for up to 3 days or frozen up to 3 months and heated prior to serving.

Smokin' Almond Blue Cheese Dip

Makes 20 servings (2 tablespoons each)

Prep: 5 minutes

Refrigerate: 2 hours



1 cup sour cream
 3/4 cup mayonnaise
 2/3 cup (5 fl.-oz. can) Nestlé Carnation Evaporated Milk
 1/2 cup smoked almonds, chopped
 4 ounces blue or Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

COMBINE sour cream, mayonnaise, evaporated milk, almonds, cheese, vinegar and black pepper in medium bowl; cover. Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving. Makes about 2 1/2 cups.

SERVE with assorted cut up vegetables or chicken wings.

NOTE: To use as a dressing, increase evaporated milk to 1 cup.

Jenny Harper is Consumer Test Kitchen Project Manager for the Nestlé Test Kitchens and Very-BestBaking.com.

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