

Medals Awarded



MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 17, 2011) – On Sept. 26, 2010, Lt. Scott Gragen, Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Hoover, Firefighter/Paramedic Marshall Runkles and Firefighter/Paramedic Greg Stroud on right-Fire Chief M. Stuart McElhaney. Anthony Station 1 responded to a structure fire, arriving within four minutes. Moments after firefighters arrived, they were advised a victim was still inside the double-wide mobile home.

With heavy flames surging through the

roof, firefighters immediately went inside to search for the victim and brought her outside to receive treatment. While the victim did not survive, the crew executed this call with precision, speed, teamwork and excellent communication. For their involvement in an act of bravery and for showing initiative and capability during this fire fatality in Anthony, Gragen, Hoover, Runkles and Stroud were awarded the Medal of Commendation at Friday's ceremony. Pictured on right was Fire Chief M. Stuart McElhaney.

Republican Business Council

By Tom Loury

The RBC held their monthly luncheon. This luncheon has multiple purposes. This month it was to meet the candidates for Sheriff. Sheriff Ed Dean will not be running again. Throwing their hat in the ring is Dan Kuhn and Chris Blair. The candidates are clearly different.

Chip Morris was the moderator from The Sky 97.3. He did a great job shooting ques-

tions at the candidates one after another.

Chris Blair comes from law enforcement rank and file and says he knows what Marion County needs, "More Boots on the ground!" He is retired and has been working unsolved cases on his own time.

Dan Kuhn is more of an administrator. His analogy is "You don't want a football coach out on the field tackling players. He wants to be the coach. Encourage, direct and make sure he has the right player in the right place. The officers need to be ready for what is coming, no matter what it is.

At this point both candidates appear to be very capable. Watch them close to see which one emerges as the leader. I am withholding my decision until later in the season.

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Baxley Speaks at OBL Breakfast



Dennis Baxley

Dennis Baxley recently spoke at a Ocala Business Leaders breakfast. While there he spoke about things that he was trying to do to help improve the business environment. He took many hard questions and answered them honestly. Dennis is passionate about this country and Marion County. I believe he is making difference. The following is a letter he recently sent.

Dear Friends,

The 2011 legislative session was a great success. Our elected leaders were able to tackle a variety of really difficult subject matters and make some key policy changes to improve our State, the economy and the quality of life in our communities.

Despite the challenging economic times forcing many of us to vote for some difficult decisions (because of the nearly \$4 billion dollar deficit) we were able to do our Constitutional duty to balance the budget. We made a decision, as leaders, that we would live within our means and not increase the burden on taxpayers. And we did not!

Passing a bill is a very involved process. Bills must be thoroughly vetted through multiple bi-partisan Committees and Committee Members. It must be scheduled to be heard on the floor of the House and Senate. If there are any amendments, or time just runs out, bills may begin to 'die.'

Below are some of the highlights of reforms that came out of this session: Improving the economic climate:

We passed legislation that will completely eliminate the State Corporate Income tax

(Continued on Page 6)



School Board Budget

Jackie Porter

There has been ongoing turmoil and unrest between the public and cost cutting proposals by Superintendent Yancey. Some costs cutting measures proposed by the Superintendent are outsourcing student transportation and cutting a minimal amount of travel expenses. I feel his cost cutting measures aren't deep enough and in the right places.

First of all, there is the issue of outsourcing student transportation. Based on a recent Auditor General's report for fiscal year

end 2010 the number of buses and routes reported by the district had been overstated. Page 46 of the audit states: "Our review of the buses and their corresponding routes disclosed that the District had renumbered some of their buses to reflect the transportation zone that the buses transported students in (Ref. 51)." The report also notes that 24 routes "were missing and could not be located." Ladies and Gentlemen...the overstating of buses and routes in operation is inexcusable.

(Continued on Page 2)

Ellen B. Wilcox

MONEY MATTERS

Most folks don't plan to fail; they just fail to PLAN!

I encountered extreme sadness recently when a friend informed me of the sudden death of his young son. Of course I offered my condolences and also my help with any financial counseling the widow and other family members might want or need.

In working with the bereaved family, it became immediately apparent that money problems were many and satisfactory solutions were few. There were final expenses, the necessary sale of a small business, children to provide for and rather significant personal debts including financed vehicles, a boat and multiple credit cards already in arrears. And, the biggest blow of all, no life insurance! I managed to stifle a scream, and my only audible comment was a simple, Oh, my!

Life insurance is an essential part of any financial plan, no matter how affluent or how modest the family conditions. However, life insurance is so basic that many Financial Advisors don't even review it during the planning process. I often find that Life Insurance hasn't been reviewed in years! In many families, it is been purchased long ago, and never reviewed or updated. New products and new benefits appear frequently, so failing to review, update or revise existing contracts can often be detrimental to an overall financial plan.

Many older adults are ineligible for life insurance due to pre-existing health conditions, so it's vitally important that young people, especially those with children, mortgages and ancillary debts, have adequate insurance to provide for survivors. One of the great benefits of insuring a life at an early age is that it can often insure the future insurability of the individual covered.

As a senior citizen, one of the nicest gifts to a new grandchild is a gift of a small life insurance policy. Another great idea is to discuss insurance with young adult children when they marry and begin to take on the roles of spouse and parent.

In all cases, a review of life insurance is a financial MUST DO at least every two years or whenever a major event such as birth, death or illness occurs.

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versification does not ensure against market risk.

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School Board Budget

(Continued from Page 1)

A May 28, 2011 student transportation report issued by Marion County Public Schools to the Florida Department of Education indicates 23,563 students rode buses this year; however, this number has not been audited. The public has been told for months from the Superintendent's office that 29,000 students are transported every day. The information released to the public and the press was overstated by 23%!! The previous error in reporting student transportation numbers by the Superintendent's office, including their overstatement of buses and routes, leads me to question the savings of \$700,000 claimed by the Superintendent. As I have said before, I am not in favor of outsourcing student transportation because the cost savings have not been proven to justify the amount of risk placed on the School District.

Another proposed cut by the Superintendent was for to reduce 1/2 of the out-of-county travel for all employees at a savings \$100,000. When I read this calculation it seemed too low. Expenditures for travel in-

clude seminars, conferences, staff training, registration fees, meals, lodging, and mileage reimbursements. Finance provided me with an analysis of travel. The out-of-county travel costs were reported at \$519,000 for this year. The report also showed in-county-travel to be \$310,000. A grand total of \$829,000 just this year! My proposal is to eliminate all travel expenses.

There are many departmental budgets which comprise the main school district budget. Those budgets are not available for me to scrutinize and remain the duty of the Superintendent. I do not support tax increases, I do support a complete review of all department's non-essential expenses. I also proposed a 10% cut for salaries of the Superintendent, School Board Members, Deputy Superintendents, Executive Directors, Directors, Supervisor I, Coordinator I & II, and HACC Program Manager. This cut would save about \$575,000.

Please visit my website with videos, photos, and documents including the staffing plan with salaries at www.jackieporter.com.

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No Brake Jake Headlines Cars 2 Celebration

Local 14-year-old driver and racecar at Ocala Downtown Square June 24

OCALA, Fla. --- Don't let that boyish charm and innocent smile fool you: When Jake Perkins goes up against grown men, he races to win. Jake and his No. 59 machine (www.nobreakjake.com) was the center of attention for the Cars 2 Grand Prix Celebration on the Downtown Ocala Square designed to raise the visibility of the Marion Theatre. He was available for autographs and photos Friday June 24. "I really appreciate a chance to be a part of this special day," said young Jake, "and I'm looking forward to making new friends and fans."

"Jake would never do anything to disrespect another driver," said his father Carter Perkins, an Ocala dentist, "but by the same token he's not going to get pushed around out there." So don't get the idea he's some kid in a go-cart. He races late models all over the state and competes at a high level. Twice he

has finished in the top ten. And the way he has progressed, if there are enough sponsors Jake will go racing at a near full-time pace next year. An "A" student, he will attend an accelerated program at Belleview High School in the fall which will allow him to be absent for races and make up the work.

Young Perkins is also a golfer, tennis player, basketball player and soccer player. Jake plays the piano and the clarinet in the school band. His first love, though, is racing, something he hopes to do all his life. He started his driving career in January of 2005 and knew right away it's what he wanted to do. "I hope to be doing it forever," he said. "Whether I make it to NASCAR or not, which is an ultimate goal, I'd like to be doing this my whole life. It's just something that I love to do. We're working on sponsorships and stuff so we can keep on going and work our way up."



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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Netanyahu told Obama pretty clear!!! Talk about telling him where to get off! He's even got the unions mad at him – they only spent \$400 million to get him elected. I listened to the president of the AFL-CIO talking to the National Press Club (talking to the choir since they are all liberals anyway) and he threatened to take away their support for re-election. An idle threat, since where would they go with their money – certainly not to Republicans. This president of the AFL-CIO boasts of going to the White House 47 times and having access there any

time he wants. By the way, the world was supposed to come to an end!

Senator Loren Colburn has been the watchdog for the people on some of these earmarks. For instance 1.5 million dollars on a robot that folds laundry research. How would that help the American people? Here is one - studying the effects of putting a shrimp on a treadmill. Again why? There was even one on jello wrestling in Alaska.

Earmarks should be deemed illegal. Vote on the issue, no earmarks, no distractions

just pure issue.

I have not been in agreement with some issues with the Sheriff of Marion County. The Willow program is a "Work in lieu of Arrest." Some years back I got involved because the Willow program was putting 8 and 9 year olds in with 17 year olds to work on the Sheriff prison farm. I managed to get the 8 and 9 year olds out of the program - buuuuu there is still a lot to do. The 10, 11, and 12 year olds should not be with the older prisoners. They are being recruited by them. The other thing that is so blatantly wrong is that they are using the school resource officers to introduce students into the system and the schools are allowing it. These should be two different issues. The school should take care of their own problems and not send any kids to a prison work farm. Instead of teaching kids to respect and listen to police officers they are teaching hate.

If a school rule is broken? Keep the student an extra hour or more at school cleaning up the ground or studying.

Back to the Willow program. Scare tactics are used to sign the kids in. The parent, mostly the mothers are told (usually at the school) we are going to handcuff your child and take them to jail or you can sign them into this work program, they can go home with you. They are taken to the Sheriff's work farm and expected to work on a Saturday. I agree with the program, but not the way they are signed in and not the younger children in with the older teenage offenders.

When I got involved before, after it was all over I received a letter of thanks from the

State Juvenile authorities because they know right from wrong. They thanked me for getting involved. I actually got thanks from several deputies who are no longer there.

We need to take the 10, 11, and 12 year olds out of that program, or keep them separate from the older offenders. The offenses on the street are very different than the ones in the schools.

Talk to these new candidates about the changes you would like to see. That would be the School Board and the Sheriff candidates. I had hundreds of people talking to me about the Willow program and they agreed it was not right to expose the young kids to the older offenders and they felt it should not be part of the school system.

This has nothing to do with the officers on the street but it has everything to do with policy, make it stop!

Now is the time to make a difference!

Superintendent Yancey

Tuesday June 14 school board meeting Jim Yancey did not attend. Missing were the two chief finance people.

Interesting and disturbing that 10 days before two of the most life changing decisions in Marion County School history, (going to a 4-day school week affecting 41,000 children and privatising student transportation affecting nearly 350 employees lives,) the Superintendent and his top finance directors were out of town, instead of answering phone calls and crunching numbers.

It is my opinion that any one of the School Board members that vote for privatising transportation can be held liable in case of injury or death of a student, because of neglect of the vendor. For instance a student is hurt or worse. A twenty million dollar lawsuit is filed. The vendor files bankruptcy and folds. WHO IS LIABLE then? I believe the lawyers could say if the school system was running transportation this would not have happened.

The other thing that bothers me is the report from a recent Auditor General's report for fiscal year end 2010. The number of buses and routes reported by the district had been overstated. Page 46 of the audit states: "Our review of the buses and their corresponding routes disclosed that the District had renumbered some of their buses to reflect the transportation zone that the buses transported students in (Ref. 51)." The report also notes that 24 routes "were missing and could not be located."

If this means what I think it does, funding could be in jeopardy and was it done for funding purposes or was it an error? This means the figures given to the vendors bidding on the transportation is wrong.

While all of the above is going on the School Board approved 2.8 million dollars to buy the fuel for buses that they are talking about privatising. The comment was made that they could buy it cheaper than the vendor. What does this mean? Is the school Board going into the business of selling fuel? Do they have a license for this? Man this is getting deeper and more complex. What ever happened to keeping it simple?

The people need to go to these meetings because everything they do affects your tax dollars.

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Newspaper Deadlines

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12am, July 20th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, July 27th

Ocala DownTown

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Everyone has an agenda.

The small, the tall, the rich, the poor, the old, the young, the obese, the skinny, the liberal, the conservative, the gay, the straight, the religious, the atheist. Each of us had better decide if our particular agenda is worth the risk of losing our freedom, and our entire way of life, forever.

What does this mean?

Familiar example: SS and medicare are the agenda for the elderly, and these programs are in big trouble. Mention the word

“reform”, and seniors go ballistic. Even when they will not be affected by the reform. Seniors are that paranoid about their agenda. Without reform both of these programs are going to eventually die. This seems short-sighted, and foolhardy. If it needs to be fixed, and it can be fixed, why not fix it?

Everyone else is just as short-sighted about their agenda. How, can we survive so much discord? What about the BIG PICTURE? Does anyone care about the BIG PICTURE? If we go down in flames, what do these puny agendas matter? There is a

world out there that is bigger than “ME”, and there are people with global agendas.

These globalists are waiting for the collapse of America. They have big plans for all of us. Plans none of us are going to like. They relish using these small agendas like SS and medicare as scare tactics to scare small agenda groups, and the small groups buy into it. When the globalists take over, small group agendas are out the door.

What lies ahead? Now: I have a hangnail, and demand Medicare pay for this procedure. Or, I have a choice between taking the hangnail off myself, or, becoming a New World Order Slave? Think I will take the dratted hangnail off myself, thank you very much.

What is your choice: Your agenda, or their agenda?

What good is your agenda when America collapses, and the slave masters take over?

It cannot, never will, happen here in America, you say. We have survivors of the last two holocausts living in our midst; ask them. It happens in a blink, when the time is ripe. Globalists are patient, persistent, and committed to winning.

What to do: Stick with my puny agenda, or, live free. Free, free, free, I choose free. What's your choice?

D.I. L.

Dear Editor:

Here we go again! Because some people cannot behave, act like grown-ups, be fair, be honest, everyone must be dragged down to their level. We are constantly being forced to the lowest, lowest, lowest common denominator.

Who wants to live like that? It makes life difficult for those who do have common sense, and a moral compass. Constantly others have to accommodate those who do not have a shred of a conscience.

What is a business to do when its merchandise is walking out the door unpaid for? They take out their self serve lanes, that is what they do.

It matters not that those lanes were a tremendous convenience to those who used them, honestly.

Why? Why do we keep tolerating this type of behavior, and allow these crooks to make our lives complicated, and inconvenient? Every time I must once again stand, and wait in a long line, I will not be happy, and I will be muttering under my breath. Where are the crooks now? They are off pulling another scam on some unsuspecting business. What do these people say to God, if they go to church on Sunday? Why bother?

If you have never been poor, you might be inclined to find excuses for such behavior. However, if you have been poor, there is NO rationalization for such behavior. Doing without TV's or cell phones, or fancy clothes, yeah, even food is no big deal. Many of us did it for prolonged periods of time. We were patient and waited until we were able to afford such things, and then pay for them. It did not kill us.

This lane problem is happening at the bottom of society, but this kind of mentality exists at the top of the heap as well. This phenomenon is not a matter of strata, but a sense of entitlement. Some of us are more entitled than others. I had to be one of the unlucky ones, born with common sense, and a conscience. Drat!!!! No free stuff for me.

D.I. L.

Dear Editor:

Where are the leaders of Marion County: Political, Social, and Economic? Come out, come out wherever you are!

Do these leaders have any allegiance, concern, or loyalty to Marion County, any interest in seeing Marion County prosper? Why must any community sit like fledglings in a nest waiting to be fed by others?

What did the founders do? There was no one to help them. They did it themselves.

(Continued on Page 7)

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

Baxley Speaks at OBL Breakfast

(Continued from Page 1)

on 15,000 small businesses.

We passed unemployment reform decreasing the burden in small businesses

We eliminated the liability for employers wishing to hire people with developmental disabilities

We loosened up some growth management restrictions that will allow improvement of new areas

The Governor created a new Department of Economic Opportunity to reach his 700,000 jobs goal in 7 years

- Sanctity of life:

We re-aligned the Choose Life specialty license plate to work like all the other spe-

cialty plates, allowing the funding to go directly to the Choose Life organization in support of non-profit organizations who assist women that choose adoption.

We asked Congress to ratify the Parental Rights Amendment limiting a minor's opportunity to seek an abortion without parental approval and revised the procedure for judicial waiver, again trying to involve the parents in the process.

We are requiring that women seeking an abortion first be shown an ultrasound of the child they are carrying.

- Resolutions that are planned to appear on the ballot in 2012:

The public funding of abortion resolution

bill was the most significant piece of legislation of my entire tenure. It will allow Floridians to have the opportunity to vote to end the taxpayer funding of abortions in 2012 and to align our State with the U.S. Constitution on abortion law. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to get this measure approved by voters.

Residents of Florida State will have an opportunity to align our State Constitution with U.S. Constitution whereas no individual or entity may be denied State funding on the basis of religious identity or belief.

- Education:

We were able to create a better system for our students by increasing accountability and opportunity for our teachers.

- Prison reform:

The Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice Secretaries set a new direction for these agencies. We instituted new initiatives to reduce recidivism and keep the mentally ill and lower-level drug offenders out of prisons

We are moving kids to a civil citation system to keep them out of jail and prison

We expanded faith-based programming and re-entry programming

We sought to be 'right on crime, not just 'tough on crime'

- Secure elections:

A lot has been said about the elections bill. This legislation was necessary to ensure the integrity of our voting process. Election Day is NOT a voter registration event. We heard reports of people that lived in another city and traveled to vote in a City Council election. Because they were able to change their address at the polling place, they were able to vote in another city's election – even though they didn't live there! This bill also helps place Florida in a more influential role for the Presidential Preference Primary. We are a battleground State and believe that we should have more say in our Republican Presidential nominee.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Onward and upward,

Dennis K. Baxley

Representative, House District 24



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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

Are we any less capable?

Isn't there enough brain power, brawn power, and money { we may need to raise a little investment capital} to rescue this country on our own? Or, do we continue to wait for the business fairy to show up?

Why do we sit with our "Woe is me" attitude? There are so many overpriced, faulty {really bad}, poorly designed, inferior quality products on the market. Surely, we can find something to make cheaper, and of a better quality than we currently import. This is how we fight back.

When America exported goods, they were of a superior quality. We strove for qual-

ity. That ethic no longer exists among the exporters of today. We import high priced junk. This is fiscal rape.

May I suggest a product? For 50 years I have driven a top of the line luxury car, and never had to have a gasket replaced. Within the past year, 3 small gaskets needed to be replaced, to the tune of \$3000. Surely, we can once again make a quality gasket.

The list of products could go on ad infinite until it reached book length.

Today's export countries want to get rich quick, and we are their patsy.

Our do it yourself America, or, Marion County attitude: What ever happened to that? The gauntlet is thrown, who will pick it up?

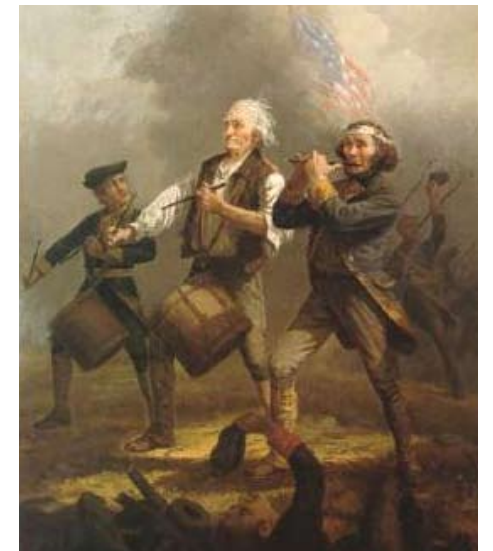
D.I. L.

Our History

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.



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Mandatory Burn Ban

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 14, 2011) – Due to dry conditions, the Marion County Multi-Agency Wildland Task Force recommended to extend the mandatory burn ban for Marion County today. Marion County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Stan McClain approved and signed the original emergency order on May 31.

The burn ban prohibits campfires and all open burning, excluding attended and monitored barbeque and cooking equipment. The burn ban also prohibits the use, ignition or

discharge of any type of explosive compounds, fireworks, flares or sparklers. If citizens are caught violating the burn ban, they could face fines and other consequences. However, commercial burners may still be eligible for a burn permit on a case by case basis pending onsite inspections from the Florida Division of Forestry and/or Marion County Fire Rescue. For more information citizens should call the Division of Forestry at 352-955-2010 or Marion County Fire Rescue 352-291-8000.

The average drought index, based on a scale from 0 to 800, is currently 643 in Marion County. Any number above 500 is considered a wildfire danger zone. The drought index coupled with lack of rainfall, dry weather, low humidity and gusting wind prompted the task force to take action. As an alternative to outdoor burning, Marion County residents may take up to two cubic yards of debris (leaves, scrub clippings and small branches) to the Marion County landfill or recycling centers for free.

Meanwhile, firefighters urge citizens to follow these safety tips:

Delay outside burning until the mandatory burn ban is lifted.

Take yard debris to Marion County's landfill or recycling centers, a safer alternative to backyard burning. Citizens should call 352-671-8465 for more information.

Immediately report arson or other suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Use vehicle ashtrays; don't throw ciga-

rette butts out the window.

Use caution when mowing or working with other equipment that could spark.

If you spot a fire or large column of smoke, call 911.

For more information about the burn ban, visit www.marioncountyfl.org <<http://www.marioncountyfl.org>>.

The Marion County Multi-Agency Wildland Task Force formed shortly before the unprecedented 1998 wildfire season. Over the last decade, firefighters and other public safety professionals from local city, county, state and federal agencies have met on a routine basis to discuss wildfire conditions, call load, manpower capabilities, wildfire tactics and public education campaigns. The Wildland Task Force makes recommendations, to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners to implement mandatory burn bans based on participating agencies' feedback.

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I'm Here To Help You

By Charlotte Poss

I am sure that everyone has by now, heard all the many promises that are being made by those who are seeking to be elected to a government position.

In some ways, they all sound like the news broadcast and their commercials on T.V.

How many times have you heard a news-caster state, "Tune in on Monday at the 11 pm news to hear about the utility scam in your neighborhood that is costing you hundreds of dollars". You hear this on Thursday or Friday and they want you to wait until Monday to find out how to protect yourself. The news media does this on many crime issues and rapist in the area to list just a few.

The men and women running for office are doing the same thing to all of us. They contend that they know how to save the economy, make new jobs, get the country out of debt, etc, etc., These people hold an office to represent the people of our country. If they have the knowledge and means to do the things that they brag they can do, why don't they do it.

I for one am tired of hearing "If I am elected as _____, I can give the public a better economy." If you know how to do this and you are a public servant why can you not do this now? Why wait to see if you are elected? The person who has all the an-

swers and does not win the election never goes on to solve problems that he or she claims that they have the answers for.

Politicians should be like the one car commercial on T.V. "Show me the Car Facts", before I buy.

Like the T.V. News Commercials telling you to wait a couple of days to see who is stalking your neighborhood, are putting people in danger or open to exploitation, if you have the information it is your duty to put it out to the public as soon as possible. The same goes for the want to be presidents. If they have the solution to help the country they should do it now and show that they are not just giving us lip service. We all know that if they should win the election, they do not make any changes, it just gets worse.

Just look at all the Seniors Citizens. No, Cost of living increase in the last couple of years. Our elected officials get increases. Seniors get Medicare cuts and medication increases, politicians don't.

Our fat cat politicians have to start proving themselves. We, the public have to stop being so willing to believe the lies that are told to us and start asking to see the facts. Show us the facts, then maybe you will get the vote.

My Mother always said, if it sounds too good to be true it more than likely is not true.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY, 2011 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

MOVIE TIME

When: Tues. & Wed., July 12th and 13th at 8th Ave. Adult Recreation Center "BLACK SWAN" Starring: Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and more. New York City ballet Dancer Nina (Natalie Portman) enters into an intense battle of wills with a talented and ambitious new arrival (Mila Kunis) who seems intent on edging her out of the spotlight in this supernatural-flavored psychological thriller from director Darren Aronofsky. Rated R

When: Tues. & Wed., July 26th and 27th at 8th Ave. Adult Activity Center "JUST GO WITH IT" Starring: Adam Sandler, Jennifer Aniston, Brooklyn Decker and more. A prominent plastic surgeon meets the woman of his dreams only to find their future thrown into jeopardy when his playboy past comes back to haunt him. Danny (Adam Sandler) has a unique approach to picking up women -- in order to break the ice and gain their sympathy, he pretends to be stuck in an unhappy marriage. The instant he brandishes his wedding ring, the deal is all but cinched. But when Danny finally meets a woman (Brooklyn Decker) that he really would want to marry, he abandons his usual approach for something more subtle. Incredibly it works. But when she discovers the wedding band that he used to use as a

pick-up prop, Danny attempts to cover his tracks by falling back on his tried-and-true divorce line. Unfortunately for Danny, the plan backfires when his new girlfriend asks to meet his future ex. Desperate, Danny recruits his office manager, Katherine (Jennifer Aniston) to validate his ruse by posing as his current wife. Before long, the lies are snowballing, and by the time Katherine's kids get involved and everyone comes together for a trip to Hawaii, it's not a matter of if Danny's plan will fall through, but when. RATED PG 13

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 (Call Grace at the center for dates and details)

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.

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 Thursdays, 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 Thursdays.

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!

AGELESS AQUA CLASS – Session 2

When: Fridays, August -September

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

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

Cost: \$27.00 per person Limited to twenty seniors

What: A water fitness class for active seniors that focuses on enhancing movement, strengthening muscles, increasing range of motion and improving balance. Music provides the backdrop for an enjoyable class that is designed to get everyone moving. Call Grace at 629-8357 for details.

AQUABILITY (AGES 6 PLUS)

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July and August

Time: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd. Cost: \$22.00 per person

What: An adaptive aquatics program

for individuals of all ages with disabilities. Limited to 7 people per session. For more information, please call Diane at 401-3916 for dates and details.

AQUASIZE (AGES 18 PLUS)

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July, August, and September

Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Blvd. Cost: \$27.00 per person

What: This class provides a workout that incorporates the use of buoyancy equipment (noodles, belts/cuffs, hand buoys). Class activities include stretching, cardiac, toning, strength training, and abdominal workouts. Music is used to make it lively and fun. Modifications will be demonstrated for all fitness levels. This class is limited to 20 people. Please call Diane at 401-3916 for dates and details.

RED WHITE & BLUES FESTIVAL

When: Saturday, July 2, 2011

Time: 6-9pm

Where: Ocala's Downtown Square Cost: Free

What: A patriotic festival in honor of our country. Enjoy music, fun and food for the whole family. For information call Stan Creel at 352-629-8444

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(Continued on Page 11)

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 10)

to play with a partner or alone. Available time is Mondays from 10am-3pm. For the months of July and August, time slots will

4H Camp Ocala

MARION COUNTY 4-H ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR 4-H CAMP OCALA

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 10, 2011) – Give your children a summer of exploration and educational exploits by registering them for 4-H Camp Ocala. This July, Marion County 4-H is offering four days of adventure, including archery, kayaking, orienteering, swimming, crafts and nature programs. The camp is held in the Ocala Na-

Fire Rescue

Marion County Fire Rescue firefighters responded to a incident involving a burn patient at 1:44 p.m. at 16415 SE 252nd Avenue. When crews arrived on-scene, they confirmed an adult male deceased and confirmed a one acre grass fire. The 911 caller

also be available on Tuesday mornings from 9am-12:00pm. Check out all of our other activities at <http://RecreationandParks.ocalafl.org>

tional Forest, but features modern sleeping, dining and meeting facilities.

The camp is open to all children, both 4-H members and non-members, ages 8 – 13 and will be held July 5 – 8, 2011. Deadline to register is June 24, 2011. The camp fee of \$185 includes activities, meals, lodging, supplies, a camp T-shirt and canteen. For more information or to register, contact Marion County Extension Service at 352-671-8413 or margaret.gleason@marioncountyfl.org.

advised he was burning some type of debris in his backyard prior to the grass fire. The Florida State Fire Marshal's Office is responding to investigate.

For more information, please page MC-FR's PIO at 352-898-3570.

Utility Phone Pay System

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 8, 2011) – If you're one of Marion County Utilities' nearly 29,000 customers, you now have a new way to pay your monthly utility bill. The department kicked off its phone bill-pay in the beginning of June. Clients now have the option of paying by phone, online, mail, automatic bank draft or in-person at select Marion County Tax Collector locations or the Marion County Utilities office.

The phone payment option comes to fruition after several years in the making. Utilities staff wanted to provide more convenient options for residents, particularly those who may have decreased mobility or access to technology.

"It's convenient and secure. All you have to do is punch in the information on the phone," said Marion County Utilities Administrative Manager Nancy Jarvis. "A lot of people don't have computers and may not be able to physically get around, but almost everyone has a landline or cell phone."

Residents can use a credit card and pay via the phone pay system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To access the system, customers should call 352-671-8503. Acceptable forms of payment include Discover, Mas-

terCard and Visa debit or credit card; there is no credit card surcharge. Callers can also use the system to check their payment history. Utilities officials will use this same automated system to notify water users if a bill is past due or a boil water advisory is issued.

Although the phone pay system is the latest, it's not the only recent addition to utility pay options. Marion County Utilities launched a partnership in May with the Marion County Tax Collector to accept utility payments at various Tax Collector office locations. The reason – many of the utility's customers are located in the outer parts of the county while the Marion County Utilities office is located near downtown Ocala.

Residents can now visit the Ocala McPherson Complex, Belleview, State Road 200, Dunnellon, East State Road 40 or North Highway 441 Tax Collector locations and pay their bills on-site by cash, check or credit (American Express, Discover or MasterCard). A small convenience fee will be applied to credit card payments.

For more information about Marion County Utilities bill payment options, call 352-671-8510.

Happy Independence Day!

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Drop in Unemployment

June 17, 2011

Region posts drop in unemployment, gains in jobs and labor force

Joblessness in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties dropped in May from 11.7 to 11.5 percent over the month, and was 1.2 percent down over the year, according to today's release of employment data by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

The unemployment rate for Workforce Connection's three-county region is one percentage point above Florida's rate of 10.5 percent. The national unemployment rate

held at 8.7 percent.

Out of a labor force of 208,299 in the region, there were 24,016 unemployed, down from 24,128 over the month, and 184,283 with jobs, up from 182,329.

Jobless rates in May for the Workforce region were 11.9 percent in Marion County, down from 12.1 percent; 11.0 percent in Citrus County and 10.3 percent in Levy County, which remained unchanged.

Rusty Skinner, Workforce's chief executive officer, said all indicators are "very positive" for the region. Not only has job-

lessness dropped or held steady in the region, but Skinner said there have been gains in job creation and expansion of the labor force which is the number of those actively seeking employment.

"That's what we needed to see," Skinner said. "If we just have a drop in the unemployment rate, but no concomitant gains in jobs and labor force, then that tells us people are getting discouraged and giving up or leaving the area. What we're seeing today is very positive. We're not out of the woods, but we're starting to see some light."

The number of unemployed in Marion County unemployment dipped by 134 to

15,832, at the same time the labor force expanded by 1,120 to 132,611 and the number of employed rose by 1,254 to 116,779. Non-agricultural employment for the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was 90,400 in May, down 1.8 percent of 1,700 jobs over the year – the third steepest rate of job decline in the state.

In May in Citrus County the number of jobless barely moved, from 6,400 to 6,384 while those with jobs rose slightly from 51,638 to 51,825 for a gain of 187 jobs and the labor force posted a modest gain, up 171 to 58,209.

The situation is much the same in Levy County. The number of unemployed remained virtually unchanged, rising by 26 to 1,800. At the same time, those with jobs increased by 200 to 15,679 and the labor force expanded by 226 to 17,479.

Marion and Citrus counties' unemployment rates continue to slide down the ranks of highest rates in the state. In April month, among Florida's 67 counties, Marion ranked sixth highest, Citrus was 10th and Levy County was 24th. In May, Marion fell to seventh, Citrus 11th and Levy 25th. The Ocala MSA dropped from third to fourth highest among the state's 23 MSAs – the second consecutive month of decline – behind Palm Coast's 13.8 percent, Miami-Miami Beach at 13.7 percent and Sebastian-Vero Beach at 12.5 percent.

Since May 2010, government lost the most jobs in the Ocala MSA, with a loss of 1,300 jobs, followed by mining, logging and construction and leisure and hospitality, with a loss of 300 jobs each, and information and other services, which saw a loss of 100 jobs each.

Manufacturing continued to remain unchanged over the year.

Education and health services gained 300 jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities with 200 jobs as well as transportation, warehousing and utilities, which also posted 200 new jobs.

Workforce Connection serves career seekers by planning and coordinating training, education and placement opportunities and also provides business development services such as on-the-job training, paid internships and other financial incentives. Last year, more than 36,000 career seekers and 1,600 businesses received services.

The local, business-led nonprofit organization works with economic development partners throughout the three-county region to bring new employers to the area as well as to provide services and hiring and training incentives that help new and existing businesses, large and small.

To obtain a full copy of May 2011 Unemployment Data or to find out more about upcoming events and services, visit www.clmworkforce.com or call 1-800-434-JOBS, ext. 1234, or use these links: Regional Data <http://www.clmworkforce.com/docs/WR10_Un_employment.pdf> and State Data <<http://www.clmworkforce.com/docs/release.pdf>> .



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Free Papers

Working For You

Chicken à la GRILL

(Family Features)
There's nothing wrong with lip-smacking good barbecued chicken - but there are a lot of other tasty ways to enjoy chick-

en hot off the grill. These recipes from the National Chicken Council bring flame-kissed flavor to your plate in the form of sweet and spicy wings, summer-fresh kabobs, and a gorgeous entree salad.

Quick Grilling Tips

- When cooking chicken outdoors, keep it refrigerated until ready to cook. Do not place cooked chicken on same plate used to transport raw chicken to grill.

- Keep food from sticking to the grate by rubbing with vegetable oil or non-stick cooking spray.

- Keep a spray bottle filled with water close by so that you can spray down flare-ups, which can blacken your food.

For more tips and recipes, visit www.eatchicken.org.

Apricot Glazed Grilled Chicken Wings

Serves 4

4 pounds chicken wings, tips removed, and cut at the joint

1 teaspoon kosher salt

3/4 cup apricot preserves

2 garlic cloves, mashed

1 tablespoon chopped fresh ginger

1/4 cup soy sauce

1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes

Juice from one lime, about 2 tablespoons

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1/2 teaspoon cumin
2 tablespoons chopped chives
Fresh lime wedges for garnish
Season wings with salt. Heat grill to medium high.

In bowl of food processor combine preserves, garlic, ginger, soy sauce, red pepper flakes, lime juice, vinegar and cumin; process until smooth. Add chives.

Place wings on grill and cook for 8 to 10 minutes. Turn and grill for another 5 to 6 minutes.

With a pastry brush or spoon, brush sauce on wings. Cook for about 1 minute, and turn. Repeat on other side of wings. Cook for another 1 minute. Wings should register 170°F when tested with an instant read thermometer.

Serve wings garnished

with lime wedges.

Grilled Chicken and Peach Kabobs

Serves 4

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves

2 small zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch rounds

16 cremini mushrooms

3 ripe peaches, cut into eighths (may use frozen if fresh not available)

8 wooden or metal skewers

Marinate:

1/4 cup olive oil

1/4 cup coarse grainy mustard

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

1 tablespoon orange zest

If using wooden skewers, place in water and soak for at least one hour.

Cut chicken into 1-inch dice. In small bowl, whisk together mustard, vinegar, thyme, salt, pepper and zest. Slowly whisk in olive oil to combine.

Thread chicken, zucchini rounds, mushrooms and peach slices onto skewers, alternating ingredients. Be sure to leave enough space at bottom of skewer to hold and turn.

Place skewers in a single layer on a sheet pan or baking dish and pour marinade over, turning skewers to distribute marinade. Cover with plastic wrap or aluminum foil and refrigerate. Marinate, turning skewers occasionally, for at least 30 minutes or overnight.

Heat grill on high heat. Place skewers on grill and cook, turning, for about 10 minutes.

Serve over rice.

Pan-Asian Chicken Escabeche

From the Illinois Institute of Art Cooking School, Chicago

Serves 4

6 chicken thighs, boneless and skinless

1 tablespoon Chinese five spice powder

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 teaspoon salt, divided

1 teaspoon black pepper, divided

1 red bell pepper, seeded and quartered

1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and quartered

1 jalapeno pepper, seeded

2 cans water chestnuts (5 ounces each)

1 carrot, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks

1 English cucumber, skin on and cut into 1-inch



chunks

2 radishes, halved

1 red onion, quartered

1 clove garlic, minced

1/4 cup lime juice

1/4 cup olive oil

2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped

2 tablespoons parsley, chopped

In large plastic zipper bag, combine Chinese five spice powder, 1 tablespoon olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. Add thighs to bag, seal well and turn to coat. Marinate in refrigerator for one hour, or up to overnight.

While chicken is marinating, place red pepper, yellow pepper, jalapeño pepper pieces, water chestnuts, carrot, cucumber, radishes and red onion in bowl of food processor. Rough chop by pulsing the blade. If food processor is not available, vegetables may be julienned by hand.

Place chopped vegetables in large bowl. Add garlic, lime juice, 1/4 cup olive oil, remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and remaining 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Place bowl in refrigerator and allow to sit for one hour or up to overnight.

Prepare gas or charcoal grill. Place chicken on grill and cook, turning, until done throughout, about 6 minutes per side. Cool and shred meat coarsely.

Add chicken to vegetable salad mixture. Add cilantro and parsley; stir well to combine.



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