

ocala

A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

# DownTown

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Volume 2 Issue 9  
September, 2011



## EARS Rescuing Endangered Species

EARS animal sanctuary is non-profit and is hidden away on 35 acres. EARS mission is to provide permanent homes for unwanted and/or abused endangered animals. Gail Bowen and Jaye Perrett, co-founders of EARS, along with a crew of dedicated volunteers maintain enclosures for many abandoned, neglected, and/or abused animals. The sanctuary currently houses lions, tigers, bears, cougars, bobcats, jaguars, lynx, monkeys, Fennec fox, tortoise, and dogs. EARS provides a safe and comfortable place for the animals to live. In the little town of Citra, Florida, hidden behind a gate that looks no different than many you have seen, is a very unusual area where some very big animals live. Just beyond that gate a tiger greets visitors by rubbing up against the enclosure fence with a sound of content.

Volunteers educate a private tour group about the large male tiger housed in the first enclosure. We take the tour which is under the majestic Oaks that cover the enclosures of the Endangered Animal Rescue Sanctuary.

The enclosures are cleaned every day ensuring the most sanitary conditions for the

animals. Some staff live on property.

Animals have enclosures that are many times the required size. Tigers share quarter-acre courtyards with trees, woods, and a place to swim to keep cool. The animals living quarters or compounds look much like it would in the wild.

The sanctuary focus is to expand on enclosures. EARS opened their doors to 300 animal victims of hurricane Katrina. These rescued pet cats and dogs were adoptable. Almost 50 were returned to their homes in Louisiana.

The animals at EARS have sanctuary for the rest of their lives. EARS survives on donations. To schedule a private tour, please visit [www.EARSINC.net](http://www.EARSINC.net) or call (352) 595-2959. Donations will be much appreciated and will be used for the continued care of the animals.

EARS is having a Membership Drive and Family tour Saturday September 17th from 12:45pm until 2:30pm. Adult membership and tour \$8.00 and children (2-14) \$4.00. R.S.V.P. is required to Steffie at (407)647-6328 or Email at : [SKB255@AOL.COM](mailto:SKB255@AOL.COM) - Please do not R.S.V.P. on website

## B-J Trophies

B-J Trophies holds Open House / After Hours. With food - gifts - tours - networking it was the event of the day. Over 70 people attended from over 50 different companies, it was a great turn out. B-J Trophies Awards & Gifts has been in business for over 34 years. They employ more than 10 people and offer a variety of services. They do awards, gifts, name tags, and much more than we can list. Some recently added services are Banners, Signs and Fine Arts reproductions on canvas and other materials.

Owned by Floyd Hershberger and family they have a real control on quality and service. They are located at 1735 NE Jacksonville Rd (North Magnolia). Drop by and see them. Phone number 352-732-2249.

## Back to School

By Staff writer

For students in Marion County, summer has come to a close and the new school year is upon us. Over the summer, Marion County School Board has voted on several issues that affect students and families. The school board voted 4-1 (Jackie Porter voting NO) instituting a four (4) day school week for next year, August 2012. Porter said cutting one day of school per week and extending the length of a school day is NOT the answer to budget woes. This method will hurt learning and hurt the community.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Miss Gainesville Teen USA 2012



Pictured is Brittany Lakhani, Miss Gainesville Teen USA 2012. Brittany was volunteering at the Hot Summer Nights event in Dunnellon, FL on Saturday August 13, 2011. Hot Summer Nights was held to help raise awareness and money for the Special Olympics. The event included many vendors, a classic car show, live entertainment, and a raffle for 2 scooters. Brittany and her mother did a great job selling ticket for the raffles, thanks to Brittany and her mother.

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# The Loss of My Son

By Steve Erlinger

Tuesday morning, July 5, a beautiful morning, even by Florida standards. The day after a gorgeous three-day holiday weekend. The alarm goes off at the usual 6 a.m., not that I really needed it. I have been getting up every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. for the past nine years since we established, expanded, and lately, battled to make Hometown News the No. 1 community newspaper group in America and successful.

Most mornings I get up, grab the competition, (the daily) and sit on our back patio to see if there is any national news I didn't see on TV the day before and who might be marketing with them that should be with us. Then I get ready for another great day at Hometown News.

This morning would be different. A morning that would change my family's lives forever.

So, I get up at 6, grab my pants and head out to the kitchen to make my one and only morning cup of coffee. On the way through the house, the doorbell rings. I'm still a little groggy, and I think, who could be ringing the doorbell at 6 a.m. in the morning?

I look through the peephole, still a little blurry as it takes a few minutes to get these 'ol eyes in focus, but I see a big guy, in some kind of uniform with a shaved head. Um? Why would UPS be delivering a package at 6 a.m. in the morning? So I open the door ...

It's an Indian River County Sheriff's

Deputy. My heart starts to beat. What could he want from me? I step out, he looks at me and says, "Sir, do you have a son?"

"Yea."

"Does he have curly, kinda bushy hair?"

"Yea, what's up?"

"It's not good sir. He's dead."

"What?" I reply. No way, Austin is upstairs sleeping, I think to myself.

"Do you have a motorcycle sir?"

"Yea."

"Is it a Honda CR100?"

"Yea," I reply, as my heart starts to fly and my mind goes in circles.

"Sir, your son is dead. He collided with a vehicle at the intersection down the road at about 3:45 this morning." I'm ... I'm, I'm stunned. I run to the front of the garage and try desperately to remember the code to open it. My hands are shaking and after three tries, I finally get the correct code. As the door slowly starts to open I duck under at the first opportunity and run to the back of the garage where I am sure I will see the motorcycle. WHAT? WHAT? WHERE IS THE MOTORCYCLE? I run back to the front of the house where I had left the officer.

At this moment my beautiful wife, Austin's mother, has gotten up after hearing the doorbell and steps out of the house. She looks at me with a fear I have never seen before, anywhere, and asks cautiously, "What's up, Steve?"

As I turned to look at her, she could see the sheer agony and pain and confusion that

was on my face, she screams, "WHAT?, WHAT IS WRONG?" I look into her eyes and with what I am sure was the most scared and sorrow-filled face she has ever seen, I said, "Austin is dead."

The rest of our lives will never, ever be the same from that moment on.

One or two days ago, depending on when exactly you are reading this, we laid our 16-year-old son to rest.

16! 16! How could this happen to us? How could this happen to Austin? Why?! Why?! Why?!

Friends, readers, the point of this column is not just to share with you our misfortune and what is, unquestionably, the worst experience a person could ever have to go through. It is to try to get you and or your children to look at this experience and learn from it. If we can affect just one decision, one choice, save just one life and the years of agony that follow, it will be worth the space we have allotted for this column a million times over.

For those of you fortunate enough to not have gone through the loss of a child, God bless you. Thank your lucky stars and do everything in your power to make sure it stays that way. Unfortunately, it is not always in your power.

I knew I wasn't ever going to be father of the year. I work too much, too long and have put most of my energies these past nine years into trying to make, and then keep, our company, Hometown News, growing and successful. Now, my wife, on the other hand, is Mother of the Year. She took care of

our son, as well as me, got up every morning of the school year with Austin. Made him breakfast and made sure he was ready to take on the day. Would take him to whatever event or activity he needed to be, took ball room dance lessons with him. Make sure his homework was done. All of the usual things a "Mother of the Year" would do. I would usually catch him on the way out of the house in the morning, with my daily words of encouragement: "Have a great, positive day today. Try to make at least one person smile and make the right choices, Austin. I love you." Then off he would go.

Austin wasn't a perfect teenager. Well, yeah he was. He was a straight-A student, though he didn't always get straight-A's. He was the kindest, most caring, sweet, mature, giving and thoughtful young man most of my friends and associates that met him had ever seen. Yet, he was still a 16-year-old boy. I remember when I was 16. Tough time for all teens. New school, new people, new opportunities. Halfway between being a kid and being an adult. Tough times.

Austin was a kid who would try anything. Over the years he played soccer, football, baseball, took karate, ballroom dancing lessons with his mother, boxing, up at McQuirt's Gym, was a certified scuba diver, took singing lessons, acting lessons; was a fairly skilled marksman. He was a member of the Vero Beach High School Choir and Show Chorus, could hit a golf ball nearly 300 yards, straight, and could skate on anything with one, two, three or four wheels and

(Continued on Page 5)

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## Back to School

(Continued from Page 1)

Porter suggested cutting other ways. Start by reducing district administrators pay by 10% (not school administrators, not teachers). These salaries reach upwards to \$100,000.00, plus benefit a year. She also recommended cutting the Superintendents and school board member's salaries by 10%. Porter suggested no employees in the district receive paid cell phones, a savings of \$26,158; no more travel expenses paid, a savings of \$829,000; and roll back the curriculum development budget to 2010 levels, a savings of \$965,000. Porter's overall budget cuts submitted to the Superintendent totaled \$37.5 million dollars in non-essential expenditures. Porter says "cuts are needed to sustain the unfunded mandates from the State and Federal governments that continue to be placed on school districts throughout Florida."

Also this summer a vote took place to out-

source the school bus fleet to a private company. The much talked about decision was voted down with a 3-2 vote. (Porter, Crawford, James voting NO). When we asked Jackie Porter her reasons against privatizing the bus fleet, she had several good reasons to vote no. The current fleet of over 350 buses includes 54 buses purchased in the past 4 years by taxpayers costing nearly \$6 million dollars. The private company offered \$6 million dollars for the entire 350 bus fleet. Porter said she saw no current market appraisal by an independent appraiser and she would not let taxpayer property go unaccounted for. The contract locks in the school district for 5 years, renewable each year for another 5 years. This contract is bad news if the private company failed to fulfill its obligations. The school district would have to buy back the bus fleet at fair market value. Something that would never happen because there would be no funding to purchase back

the fleet.

The school transportation department is divided up between two types of vehicles, school buses and maintenance (the white fleet). The plan to privatize was to sell off the school buses and the school district keep running the white fleet. Not a very good idea, because a portion of the white fleet are the maintenance vehicles used to service the school buses. That would create more administrative duties just to keep up with servicing a private company's bus fleet.

Also, the contract allows the private vendor to lease the bus garages, fueling compounds and parking lots for \$1.00 per year. Marion County schools white fleet would

work out of the same garages as they are now with the private company operating under the lease. The lease does not require the private company to pay for electric, water and garbage at all leased facilities. Thereby, creating a loophole that taxpayers would be paying this expense for a private company's gain. A lot of loop holes with liability issues sharing properties used by the school district and the private company. Porter's concerns were that any liability lawsuit would sue the deepest pockets, and that is the school district. Porter said "There were so many problems with this contract we can't name them all in this news article." Visit [jackieporter.com](http://jackieporter.com) for more information.



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Tom Loury

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES

### Workhorse/Workforce

Our administration reminds me of the following story:

The workhorse and the Village! The Village had one workhorse. The workhorse is the work animal that carries the water from the river to the villagers from two miles away.

The workhorse is the work animal that pulls the plow to plant the crops.

The workhorse carries the crops to the storage room.

The storage room was built with the trees that the workhorse pulled from the forest.

The workhorse also carries goods that the villagers trade for in the Village several miles away.

One day a villager who was a very good talker convinces the villagers that the workhorse if butchered would supply them with meat to eat for months.

So they did, the meat did not taste good but at the end of the meals the villagers were fat and happy. A short time later, they became the work animals and hard times fell upon the Village. It was many years before they could trade for another workhorse.

Our administration is doing the same thing to the working class people through taxation and control. The nonworking class is growing bigger but is being fed and have the same TVs, cars, homes as the working

class. As the working class shrinks and the nonworking class grows they will eat the workhorse and the people will fall upon hard times.

The administration will still be fat and happy but the workers, what few are left, will be carrying the water, pulling the plows by hand, hauling goods on their backs until there is NO MORE WORKFORCE LEFT!

Remember what I said two years ago. The Robin Hood syndrome will not work. Taking from the rich and giving to the poor will only work for a short time, but remember the fact that Robin Hood was a bandit.

\*\*\*\*

The previous brings me to the fact that I predicted over four years ago that a third party will emerge. I think we are seeing the beginning stages of it in the Tea Party which was until recently non partisan. Now they are starting to take a shape and when it is finished they will win the next election and run the country and once again the people will rule!

Our two parties hate each other too much, they don't understand they can't build anything good on hate! Some Republicans and some Democrats will switch to the Tea Party and help save the country. The Tea Party (the people) took their own time and money to march on Washington to protest peacefully. Washington should have opened their

eyes but they did not, they made excuses and called them names. The current administration is addicted to spending and it has to be stopped! I am not a Tea Party member but am watching them real close. They look more appealing every day. They are not left or right wing, they are the people of this great country and they are going to take their country back.

\*\*\*\*

Our country is crumbling from corruption. We need a strong leader with a plan and strong backing from the people. We can fix it if we go back to the basic fundamentals that we were founded on. Route out the corruption, expose it and deal with it legally. Set an example of those being a part of the corruption and others will think twice about doing that sort of thing.

\*\*\*\*

On the lighter side I received a press release from Camelot Senior Community that Helen Shuber turns 102 years young. Congratulations!

\*\*\*\*

I say close the borders until we get the illegal problem solved. Make the English Language the only language used on signs and I don't want to push one for english. Our culture is based on the Constitution, and the

Bill of Rights ONLY!!!

Make a drug screen mandatory for all who serve as our leaders for any office including the President. Anyone receiving assistance of any kind must first pass a drug test. Stop all freebies to Non-Citizens.

\*\*\*\*

Do you want to take the term buying local serious? Here is a way to find out who and where products were made by the bare codes, this came from Ken Tipper one of our retired columnist.

If the first 3 digits are:

690-692 ... then it is MADE IN CHINA

00 - 09 ... USA & CANADA

30 - 37 ... FRANCE

40 - 44 ... GERMANY

471 ... Taiwan

49 ... JAPAN

50 ... UK

Publishers Note: I for one am going to start looking and checking bar codes on all my grocery products just to see what I have been buying and maybe I can change my habits. Remember buy from barcodes starting with 0.

BUY USA & CANADIAN MADE by watching for "0" at the beginning of the number. We need every boost we can get! Buy American!

## Friends of the Library

by Ken Tipper

Bill Belleville, award-winning author and documentary maker, will be the featured speaker at a program sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Library on Sunday, October 9, at 2 p.m. in Room C at the main library on Silver Springs Boulevard. Bel-

leville will talk about his latest book, "Savaging the Real Florida", a collection of essays about his love for the Sunshine State. The program is free to the public, and refreshments will be served. For information about the Friends log on to friendsoftheocalalibrary.org or call 368-4591.

## Newspaper Deadlines

### Editorial & Ad Copy for October

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, September 21st

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, September 28th

## Ocala DownTown

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# The Loss of My Son

(Continued from Page 2)

was one of the best hockey players for his age you will ever see. He also enjoyed his dirt bike motorcycle.

Through it all, in the short periods of time I could spend with him, I continued to impress upon him the importance of making the right choices.

Things aren't the same today as when I was 16. The consequences of your actions are a lot more severe and the margin for error has nearly disappeared. I discussed with him many times the fact that one bad decision could change your life.

Over the past year or so, Austin made a couple bad choices. Decided to try smoking cigarettes, busted. Stayed out too late once, busted. Sneaked out of the house to see his girlfriend, busted. Each time he would be grounded for a week or a month or so. And he would have to endure the lectures from Dad: "You have to make the right choices, one wrong decision could change your life and all those around you."

The morning of July 5, Austin made one bad choice. Now, I am sure he didn't think it was really, "that bad of a choice." He was restless, couldn't sleep, (that's what sleeping

till after noon will do to kids) and thought he just might go ahead and visit a friend with whom he had been texting. Heck, it's just down the road, what could it hurt?

I am also equally as sure that Austin knew, yes, he knew in his heart and head that if his dad or mom caught him going out of the house at 1 a.m., he would be in trouble. (For the teenagers reading, this is the first sign that it is a bad choice) But, hey, it's 1 a.m. He could be back well before Dad had to get up for work. No harm, no foul.

So Austin opens the garage door, walks his motorcycle out and down the road a bit, gets on, starts her up and away he goes.

We are not completely sure how the story

goes from here, but apparently he went to a friend's house for a couple of hours, hangs out, chats, has a few laughs, talks about the future, (tomorrow) and heads home.

Well, somewhere between home and his friends house, Austin, riding a dirt bike with no lights, no helmet, just the wind blowing in his beautiful, full, luscious curly hair, enjoying a warm summer night and the only other vehicle within miles met at an intersection.

The poor man driving the van never saw Austin. Scouting the intersection, I am equally sure that Austin never saw the van, until the last second of his life. Fortunately for Austin, the impact instantly sent him to heaven. Unfortunately for the man driving the van, for Austin's family and friends, we will suffer for a long time, some of us forever.

I know Austin did not do this on purpose. He did not mean to nearly destroy our lives. He was far too caring, considerate, loving and kind.


He made a bad decision. A really freaky bad decision. In life, sometimes that is all you get, one chance to make the right decision. You never know when that chance is. It could be today, tonight, tomorrow or in 10 years. If you push your luck, if you keep making bad decisions, it will catch up to you.

Some of us have been lucky. I know that I have had more than my share of luck. But a long time ago, after surviving some pretty stupid stunts, I vowed to always make the right decision. I tried to instill this into my boy. I wish I had done a better job.

\*\*\*\*

Publishers Note: I have known Steve Erlinger for many years. He is a cool guy and a good friend. I can't imagine going through the loss of one of my sons. I feel his pain and if this story touches someone's heart and they work a little harder to instill in their sons and daughters that decisions have consequences and that a small mistake can end their life and maybe one of their friends, then it's worth running the story.

Steve, brother I feel for you.  
TomL



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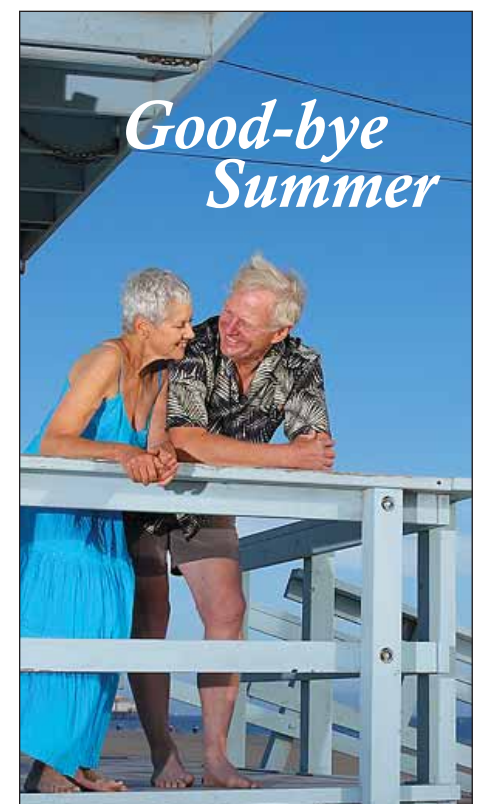
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## Those Who Serve our Country

By Charlotte Poss

I meet many interesting people but now and then you meet the one who stands out in your mind. The Men and Women who serve our country now and those who did serve during the big wars, such as, WWI and WWII. There are not many if any left from WWI. The Veterans from WWII are dwindling in numbers as time catches up with them.

I had the privilege and honor to meet a man by the name of Aris Stamulis, who is 88 years young and not only a WWII veteran, but was a prisoner of war. He now lives in a nursing home in Wildwood and his mind is as sharp as a tack. We sit for hours talking about many things but the conversation

always goes back to the days of Hitler. Talking with this man is like taking a walk back in time. The best way to understand history is to sometimes hear it from those who have lived it.

There is no such thing as Old. The body may start to give away but the knowledge locked inside of the person is like an open history book.

Aris Stamulis, along with 38 other G.I.'s, were prisoners of Germany, All 39 prisoners lived to return home after surviving the hell that they had to live through. There are only 3 of these men left living and they collected any journals that were kept and a book was published from them. The Title: BROTHERS OF WAR. The collected memoirs of

39 Brothers who survived Stalag 2B,

This book is mesmerizing, once you open the cover and start to read you cannot put the book down.

These 39 prisoners were marched into a prison labor camp in Burzen (Poland). These men lived together, worked together, and survived together. They each looked out for each other the same as brothers would. They survived starvation, illness and many horrors that will never be revealed.

To think that these 39 men had so little to eat that a pot of soup was made from melted snow and one potato. One piece of bread a day, that was leavened with saw dust not only to persevere it but to stretch it out. These WWII veterans are our hero's. There are not many left, the years are catching up with them. Their stories live on. Some-

times it takes years for a veteran to open up and start talking about their experiences but once the stories start it is amazing what you can learn from them.

If ever you get the opportunity to be near a book store, stop in and pick up a copy of "BROTHERS OF WAR", published by The Cheshire Press North Reading MA. Or check it out on line [www.cheshirepress.com](http://www.cheshirepress.com) <<http://www.cheshirepress.com/>>. This is a book worth reading.

And, if you really want to learn more about the brave men and women who helped get us the freedom that we live by, spend some time talking with a veteran. There are not enough words in any language to thank them for what they have done and what they are doing for all of us.

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## FPRA to Install Members

Ocala, FL (August 16, 2011) The Ocala Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association will honor its Pacesetter Award winner (chapter member of the year) and install the 2011-2012 board at the FPRA Ocala Chapter Celebration at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 19 at the Ocala Hilton. The annual Pacesetter Award recognizes a member for outstanding commitment to improving the Ocala Chapter.

Special guest, Melanie Mowery Etters, APR, CPRC, incoming FPRA State President will assist the outgoing Ocala Chapter President Laura Byrnes, APR, with the installation of the following board members for the 2011-2012 chapter year:

Allison Campbell, President  
Peveta Persaud, President-Elect  
Louis Brauckmuller, APR, Treasurer  
Amanda Cebula, Secretary  
Carole Savage, APR, CPRC and Toni James, APR, Programs Co Directors  
Amanda Wettstein, APR, Membership Director

Kevin Christian, Communications Director

Public relations professionals and guests are welcome to join FPRA/Ocala for the chapter celebration and lunch. The cost for nonmembers is \$25 at the door or via PayPal at HYPERLINK "www.fpraocala.org" www.fpraocala.org Please RSVP by sending an email to HYPERLINK "mailto:lvarner@hospiceofmarion.com" lvarner@hospiceofmarion.com. For more information, contact Laura Byrnes, APR, president of the FPRA-Ocala chapter, at 816-1264 or lbyrnes@clm-workforce.com.

The Florida Public Relations Association, founded in 1938, is the oldest professional association for public relations practitioners in the nation. The Ocala FPRA Chapter was established in 1980 and is one of 15 professional chapters in the state. FPRA is dedicated to developing public relations practitioners who, through ethical and standardized practices, enhance the public relations profession in Florida.



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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

September, 2011 PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

### MOVIE TIME

When: Tues. & Wed., September 13th and 14th at 8th Ave. Adult Recreation Center "LIFE AS WE KNOW IT" Starring: Katherine Heigl, Josh Duhamel and more. Two people who can't stand each other are forced to care for the same child. Holly (Heigl) is a caterer whose career is just get-

ting off the ground and Erik (Duhamel) directs sports for a major network. Their first date was a nightmare and now they're about to become a family. When their goddaughter Sophie's parents both perish in a tragic accident, Holly and Eric are informed that they were singled out as Sophie's caretakers in the event of an unforeseen disaster. Now, in order to raise Sophie right, this bickering pair must put their differences aside while

mastering the fine art of parenthood. Coordinating their new lives and getting along won't be easy for Eric and Holly, but somewhere between the conflicting schedules and drastic lifestyle changes, the reluctant couple realizes that with help from Sophie, they're starting to resemble a real family. RATED PG 13

When: Tues. & Wed., September 27th and 28th at 8th Ave. Adult Recreation Center "THE DILEMMA"

Starring: Vince Vaughn, Kevin James, Jennifer Connelly, Winona Ryder, Channing Tatum and more. A lifelong bachelor struggles over whether to tell his best friend that his wife is cheating on him with another man. Inseparable since college, best friends Ronny (Vaughn) and Nick (James) have recently gone into business together. Meanwhile, Ronny has begun dating Beth (Connelly) and Nick is happily married to Geneva (Ryder). The four friends couldn't be more happy together until the day that Ronny catches Geneva with another man (Tatum) and tells her that he can't keep the news a secret from Nick. With the weight of the truth bearing down on Ronny's conscience and no simple solution to his pressing dilemma, it all comes down to one crucial, defining moment that could make or break his friendship with Nick forever. 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.

COMING IN OCTOBER 2011: "WATER FOR ELEPHANTS" "SOURCE CODE"

### INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW!

#### COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES

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.

#### TRIP: BASEBALL GAME/TAMPA BAY RAYS

When: Wednesday, September 7, 2011  
Time: Leave 9:00 AM Return 6:00 PM from 8th Ave. Adult Rec. Center

Where: Tropicana Field, Tampa, Florida  
Cost: \$45.00 per person

What: See the Tampa Bay Rays play the Texas Rangers. Please call Grace at 629-8357 for more information about this trip.

(Continued on Page 9)

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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 8)

### AQUASIZE (AGES 18 PLUS)

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 6th through September 29th

Time: 6:30 PM to 7:30PM

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.

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### TENNIS

If you are interested in participating in one of these activities, give us a call at 629-8545. Sign-up for one-hour time slots to play with a partner or alone. Available time is Mondays from 10am-3pm.

### SPORTSABILITY

When: Friday & Saturday, September 30th & October 1st, 2011

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: Friday at MLK Rec. Complex & E.D. Croskey Rec. Center, 1510 NW 4th St. Saturday at Carney Island, 13275 SE 115th Ave., Ocklawaha

Cost: Free

What: Experience a variety of recreation activities available for people with disabilities. For more information, please call Diane Leaf at 401-3916.

Check out all of our other activities at <http://Recreation andParks.ocalafla.org>

## EPA Regulatory Relief Acts

Tell Congress to Support EPA Regulatory Relief Acts!

From the Community Papers of Florida

Thank you all for your favorable responses for our unanimously endorsed Industry Letter, hand delivered & discussed in meetings on the Hill. I'll be there again next week building on momentum and bipartisan support for action this fall. In addition to working with our Coalition Partners, we

need to get Publishers involved.

Please consider sharing this Tell Congress Alert with your members -- it's on the same PopVox platform that is a snap to use, takes seconds, and bypasses filters to reach their dearly electeds. Past feedback has been great from both publishers and their members of Congress.

Best Always,  
Jim

## 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 Sept. 17, 2011.

We will meet at the Hilton Ocala, 3600 SW 36th Avenue in Ocala. The menu will be Chicken Marsala, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetable, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. Entertainment will be provided by The Ocala Harmony.

The cost is \$15 per person and reservations and advance payment are required. Payment must be received by Wednesday Sept. 14. Please make checks payable to Bill Thompson, the club's treasurer and mail to Scandinavian Club, P. O. Box 830793, Ocala, FL 34483.

For further details call Jim Neate 687-1580, Peggy Jones 629-3443, or Lillian Woodman 873-0427./

## Murder and Mayhem

Silver Springs Shores Lion's Club

Murder, Mayhem and Meat Lasagna and Murder Mystery Dinner

Join the Silver Springs Shores Lion's Club as we step back in time to the glitz and glamour of Hollywood in the 1950's. As a guest of movie Director Eddie Cheek at his gala event you will learn about his latest project. You will enjoy a three course meal and learn of the challenges of the the industry. Throughout the meal you will be given lots of clues as to who might not like the role they were given and the changes from lead to secondary characters. Join us to learn of the "explosive" facets of Hollywood.

The murder mystery dinner will be held at the Silver Springs Shores Community

Center located at 590 Silver Road, Ocala. There will be two opportunities for you to enjoy a meal, have fun, & solve a mystery while helping the Silver Springs Shores Lion's Club.

Saturday, October 1st 12:30 p.m. & 6 p.m.

For just \$15 you will have a meal, great fun and help a community organization at the same time. The proceeds from this and all fundraising events provide support for services provided by the Lion's Club such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, vision, hearing and diabetic screenings and a variety of other support services. Tickets are available by calling 352-208-8061 or from any member.

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## Regional Unemployment Rate

Regional unemployment rate ticks up but is well down over the year

Summer unemployment in Workforce Connection's three-county region rose slightly in July but is substantially lower than a year ago, according to data released today by the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation.

The unemployment rate in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties was 12.4 percent, up just one-tenth of a percentage point since June but down 1.2 percent over the year.

Out of a regional labor force of 209,341 there were 25,947 out of work compared with 28,711 unemployed in July 2010.

Rusty Skinner, Workforce's chief executive officer, said the "slight bounce" or fluctuations in unemployment rates are "indicative of the overall uncertainty in our economy."

"The movements in Citrus County appear to be reflective of both a growth in labor force and an expansion of employment that tend to show gains in jobs exceeding growth in labor force," Skinner said. "In Levy County, the number of persons employed declined, while the labor force grew. Marion County's picture shows a very small jobs growth but an expansion of those seeking employment and that has resulted in a slight increase in the unemployment rate."

Marion County, which is also the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area, continues to hold the highest unemployment rate in the region at 12.8 percent, up 0.2 percent since

June but down from 13.9 in July 2010.

Levy County posted greatest increase in its unemployment rate, rising from 11.1 to 11.6 percent while Citrus County's rate dropped from 11.8 to 11.7 percent.

Becky Rust, AWI's chief economist, said that the month-to-month increase reflects a flat or stable unemployment rate and is not considered "statistically significant."

There were 44 Florida counties with double-digit unemployment in July. The state's unemployment rate for July is 11 percent, down 0.10 percent over the month but nearly a full percentage point lower than one year ago. Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 10.7 percent, which held steady over the month is down from 11.5 percent a year ago. The national rate remained unchanged at 9.3 percent.

In addition to unemployment rates, here is how the counties fared in July:

Citrus County's labor force grew by 486 to 58,585, the number of employed rose by 458 to 51,722 while those without jobs increased by just 28 to 6,863.

Levy County's labor force increased by 30 to 17,417 while those with jobs fell by 44 to 15,405 and unemployment rose by 74 to 2,012.

Marion County's labor force expanded by 318 to 133,339, the number of those employed rose by 40 to 116,267 while those without jobs rose by 278 to 17,072.

For the third consecutive month, the Ocala MSA held its ranking of fourth high-

est unemployment rate among the state's 23 MSAs – down from second in March and third in April – behind Palm Coast's 14.7 percent, Sebastian-Vero Beach at 13.8 percent and Port St. Lucie at 12.9 percent.

Among Florida's 67 counties, Marion County's unemployment ranking held as the seventh highest, while Citrus County ranking dropped from 10 to 18th, and Levy County continues to sit at 21st.

Total nonagricultural employment for the Ocala MSA was 89,400, down 800 jobs over June and 900 fewer jobs than a year ago. Year-to-year gains were reported in transportation, warehousing and utilities; professional and businesses services; and education and health services.

No sectors saw employment gains from June to July, while five industries showed not change over the month: manufacturing; transportation, warehousing and utilities; information; financial activities; and education and health services.

Three industries posted 500 fewer jobs than in June – mining, logging and construction, down 100; wholesale trade, down 100; and retail trade, down 300 – but that is only down 400 jobs over the year. Information services also lost 100 jobs since July 2010.

Three industries posted job gains over the year: professional and business services, 100; transportation, warehousing and utilities, up 200; and education and health services, up 500.

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.

"Our partnerships with economic development are focused on working harder with local businesses to grow their opportunities and create jobs as well as supporting external recruitment," Skinner said. "We know that customers visiting our one-stop resource centers, in person and online, are looking for jobs. We are working to expand our efforts to connect to employers that are hiring and making sure that their jobs are available to our job applicants."

Those efforts include the Talent Marketplace Career Fair set for Wednesday, Aug. 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the College of Central Florida's Klein Conference Center. The no-charge career fair features local employers with job openings. Premier Candidates who completed additional readiness training for the fair will be admitted an hour early.

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 July 2011 unemployment report or to find out more about upcoming events and services, visit [www.clmworkforce.com](http://www.clmworkforce.com) or call 1-800-434-

**(Continued on Page 11)**

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## Regional Unemployment Rate

(Continued from Page 10)

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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 800-434-JOBS, ext. 7878 or e-mail accommodations@clmworkforce.com. Please make request at least three business days in advance.

## Marion County Solid Waste to Hold September Events

MARION COUNTY, Fla. If your couch is sagging from too much sitting and your kitchen table is on its last legs, you may be dreading the day you'll have to haul both to the Baseline Landfill. If one of the 18 Marion County Solid Waste recycling centers is closer to home, you're in luck.

Solid Waste holds furniture collection events every month at varying recycling centers throughout the county to provide more convenient locations for citizens to

bring their old furniture. Solid Waste then transports the furniture to the landfill.

September furniture collection events are as follows:

- Sept. 5 Labor Day (Recycling centers and landfill are closed)
- Sept. 17 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Citra recycling center (17780 NE 19th Court, Citra)
- Sept. 24 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dunnellon recycling center (4232 S. U.S. Highway 41, Dunnellon)

## Zip Line Attraction

MARION COUNTY GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT TO NEW ZIP LINE ATTRACTION IN OCALA

The attraction will create 49 new jobs for the area

Marion County Board of County Commissioners gave their stamp of approval last week for a new Zip Line eco-tourism attraction in Ocala. Before the year is out Ocala will be home to the highest, fastest and longest zips in Florida.

The Canyons Zip Line & Canopy Tours plans to employ 49 local people, most of them as zip tour guides. The company is currently working through Workforce Connection to assist in recruiting and skills training.

Zip lines are popular in the northern states but rare in Florida because the Sunshine State tends to be flat. To achieve the height needed for zipping, other Florida zip lines

must rely on manmade stair structures.

“Not so at The Canyons where cliffs, canyons and lakes abound,” noted The Canyons President Traci Walker. “The Canyons Zip Line & Canopy Tours is not your average Florida zip line.”

Walker said that zip line guests visiting The Canyons will soar through the treetops, from one tree stand to another, flying from 140-foot high cliffs, over spring fed lakes and alongside carved limestone canyons.

“It’s the only land in Florida where all these things exist,” Walker said, “and it’s only at The Canyons Zip Line & Canopy Tours in Ocala.”

This world class tour will give the participant an opportunity to view nature in a completely different way. You can keep up with the progress of the zip line at the company’s website [www.zipthecanyons.com](http://www.zipthecanyons.com) <<http://www.zipthecanyons.com>> .

## Your Opinion matters to us!

Let us know what you think about the Seniors Voice and Downtown. 804-1223



## Dennis Baxley Speaks

State Representative Dennis Baxley Speaks on Election Law

Ocala, FL on 8/19/11 Representative Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) spoke to the First Coast Tiger Bay Club on the election law (HB 1355) that was passed in the 2011 legislative session. Representative Baxley was the House sponsor of the bill.

“Many can help with participation, but only the legislature can protect the integrity of the process so that everyone who partici-

pates can rely on the results,” said Representative Baxley.

Ben Wilcox, a lobbyist with the League of Women Voters also spoke at the luncheon event today.

For more information about the Florida House of Representatives, please visit [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) <<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>> .

For more information on the Tiger Bay Club, please visit [/www.fctigerbay.org](http://www.fctigerbay.org).

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# Sip a Summer Smoothie

(Family Features) Now that summer smoothie season has arrived, give your blender a permanent spot on the kitchen counter, and stock up on smoothie ingredients. Smoothies are so versatile it's no wonder they've made the transition from novelty to mainstream. They can fuel you up, cool you down, quench a thirst and

give you a nutrition boost at the same time.

Taste is just the beginning of why kids and adults alike enjoy sipping a smoothie. Great for when you're on-the-go, they're perfect for breakfast, snacks or even dessert, depending on the ingredients used to make them. Another reason smoothies are so pop-

ular is that they are super easy to make at home. You can use a recipe or just create your own with on-hand ingredients.

This Fruit



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Now it's safe to add fresh-cracked eggs to smoothies without the risk of foodborne illness from salmonella or other bacteria. It's possible to enjoy all kinds of recipes that call for raw eggs with Safest Choice Pasteurized Shell Eggs. They are pasteurized in the shell with a warm water bath. It's a natural process using precise time and temperature to make them safe to consume raw. A red circle "P" stamped on each egg verifies that the eggs have been pasteurized by the Safest Choice all-natural water bath and are safe to use in raw or lightly cooked egg dishes.

For other delicious, convenient protein-packed recipes, and to learn more about pasteurized shell eggs and where to buy them, visit [www.SafeEggs.com](http://www.SafeEggs.com).

### Fruit Blast Smoothies

Makes 2 servings

Preparation time: 15 minutes

1 cup green or red seedless grapes

1/2 cup frozen cherries

1/2 cup frozen strawberries

1/2 cup peeled and sliced orange

1/2 cup peeled and sliced ripe banana

1/2 cup frozen blueberries

2 Safest Choice Pasteurized Eggs

Place all ingredients in blender container; blend until smooth. Serve immediately.

Nutrition information (1/2 of recipe): 270 calories; 5 g total fat; 2 g saturated fat;

215 mg cholesterol; 69 mg sodium; 51 g total carbohydrates; 6 g dietary fiber; 9 g protein;

635 IU vitamin A; 65 mg calcium; 53 mg vitamin C; 2 mg iron.





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# Happy, Healthy Hosting

(Family Features) Healthy eating and great entertaining can go hand in hand when you have a few delicious tricks up your sleeve.

Appetizers, tapas, hors d'oeuvres - whatever you want to call them, small bites are a great way to help control portions while putting big flavor on the plate. Here are some ideas for a small bites menu that will leave guests so satisfied they might not even realize just how good they're really eating.

-Raid the farmers market. Fresh produce looks, smells and tastes fantastic. Set out a colorful veggie tray, some berry skewers with a Greek yogurt and honey dip, and a bright caprese salad. You can even make a beautiful centerpiece with fragrant citrus in a pretty bowl.

-Make your own dips. When you make it yourself, you can control what goes in it. Try making a black bean salsa, fresh guacamole, savory hummus, or your own olive tapenade. You can adjust recipes for a lower fat content or lower sodium and still make sure they taste great.

-Embrace whole grains. From bruschetta breads and grain-based salads to crunchy dippers and ingredients in heartier recipes, whole grains add great taste and good nutrition. These party-friendly recipes use the natural whole grain goodness of Roman Meal bread to put a delicious spin on some traditional favorites, while also adding good-for-you complex carbohydrates and fiber.

For more delicious recipes for entertaining and healthy living, visit [www.romanmeal.com](http://www.romanmeal.com).

## Italian-Style Turkey Meatball Skewers

Prep Time: 15 Minutes

Cook Time: 25 Minutes

Servings: 12

6 slices Roman Meal bread, toasted

1 pound lean ground turkey

2 egg whites

1 small white onion, diced

1/2 cup fresh basil, chopped

1/4 cup sun dried tomatoes, packed in oil, diced

2 teaspoons garlic, chopped

1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
36 4-inch bamboo skewers  
36 fresh basil leaves  
18 cherry tomatoes, cut in half  
2 cups marinara sauce  
Preheat oven to 375°F. Foil-line one baking sheet.

Break bread slices into pieces; place in blender or food processor. Process until finely ground into crumbs. Remove 3/4 cup, reserve remaining bread crumbs.

Combine turkey, 3/4 cup bread crumbs, egg whites, onion, chopped basil, sun dried tomatoes, garlic, pepper and salt in medium bowl. Divide turkey mixture into 36 1-inch balls; roll in remaining bread crumbs. Place on baking sheet.

Bake 25 to 30 minutes, until cooked through. Remove from oven.

Assemble meatballs, basil leaves and tomatoes on skewers. Serve with marinara sauce.

Nutritional Information per Serving: Calories: 120, Total

Fat: 3g, Cholesterol: 15mg, Sodium: 380mg, Total Carbs: 12g, Dietary Fiber: 2g, Protein: 12g, Whole Grains: 3g-



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