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A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

DownTown

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Volume 2 Issue 11

November, 2011

Business Networking at its Best



Ocala Business Leaders networking event co-hosted by Bones, who saves you money on your telephone communications. Food, drinks, and entertainment was great. Guests came and met with each of the business owners that attended. Each time you attend one of these you broaden the number of people you know in the business world. That is what the OBL is all about.



TJ Moon

TJ spoke about his company and the services that he offers. He can put you on facebook and maintain it weekly or monthly, your call. Contact TJ at www.moonscapes.org

Happy Thanksgiving

Four Day School Week

Staff Writer

The Controversial 4 Day School Week:

Superintendent Yancey recommended Marion County Schools implement a 4 day school week beginning August 2012. Jackie Porter says there was a misleading press release from the Superintendent's office the day before the vote. The press release headline read: Four day school week? Forget it, for this year. Then Tuesday, June 28, 2011 the 4 day school week for "next year", remained on the agenda. People attending the meeting were told by the Superintendent's office only the current school year was pulled off. The 4 day school week was vot-

ed on, and passed in a 4:1 vote. Jackie Porter voted "NO" to a 4 day school week.

Porter says, the savings potential from changing to a 4 day school week can only be speculated and there are too many questions that remain unanswered as to the total impact a change like this would have on the community. Those questions involve learning and safety of the children, lifestyle changes for families, and changes for businesses in the community. She says many parents, business owners, professional and medical providers are upset and very concerned with children out of school that extra

(Continued on Page 2)

Chris Blair Family Picnic

By Tom Loury

I attended the Chris Blair Family Picnic. I went early and much to my surprise when I drove up the parking lot was full. As I walked in people were greeting me and everywhere I looked there was a person wearing a Chris Blair t-shirt, hundreds of them.

As you walk around there several politicians in the crowd, I'm guessing 1500 to 1800 people were there. Food was abundant, no fund raising, just a meet and greet picnic.

The children had bounce houses and I saw children and grown ups posing with a Lama to get their picture taken.

Chris Blair spoke briefly, his wife spoke very eloquently and from the heart. It was an all-around fun day. I believe Chris is a genuine guy and believes in what he is doing. It might be nice to see a fresh face in the Marion County Sheriff's office.



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Four Day School Week

(Continued from Page 1)

day. For many families they are unable to afford outside babysitters or childcare centers. Porter says daycare centers cannot operate on having children only one day a week when school is closed, most likely on Mondays.

In Jackie Porter's presentation at the board meeting to fight against a 4 day school week, she pointed out, the Marion County Economic Development Council, and the County Commission are all seeking to recruit jobs in the county by attracting new businesses, large & small. The 6 pillars of Florida's Future Economy as outlined by the Florida Chamber Foundation lists education as one of the pillars for economic success.

She believes an employer would have second thoughts about moving into a county with a 4 day school week because their future employees, who have school age children may have to be out of work one day per week. Furthermore, without the 4 day concept being a statewide effort, Marion County could lose our competitive edge to other counties. It would not be in the best interest of our community.

Porter has requested more line by line budget information to scrutinize spending. The 4 day school week vote was premature and sneaky. The fight is not over. Jackie Porter will continue to advocate for the community.

Unemployment Rate Drops

More good news: unemployment rate drops again, jobs on the rise

(OCALA, Fla.) – The unemployment rate for Workforce Connection's three-county region was 12.1 percent for September, down 1.4 percent over the year, according to today's release from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The September unemployment rates for the region were: 12.4 percent in Marion County, down from 12.7 percent in August; 11.6 percent in Citrus County, down from 11.9 percent; and 11 percent in Levy County, down from 11.2 percent.

Out of a labor force of 210,375 – which expanded by 619 since August – there were 185,005 employed, up 1,193, and 25,371 without jobs, a decline of 574 unemployed.

Rusty Skinner, Workforce Connection's chief executive officer, said "that's very positive, good news. We've seen expansion of the labor force, expansion of the number of employed and shrinkage of the number of unemployed."

DEO delivered more good news: Total nonagricultural employment in the Marion County/Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) was up 700 jobs over the year, with education and health services gaining 600 jobs; trade, transportation and utilities up 400 jobs; leisure and hospitality adding 200 jobs; and financial activities, professional and business services, other services were all up 100 jobs.

Significantly, Ocala's growth rate in

education and health services, which had a 4.5 percent growth rate; other services, 2.9 percent; and financial services, 2.5 percent, exceeded the state's growth rate. That's the first time the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has experienced positive job growth since June 2007, according to Warren May, DEO's economic manager who oversees release of local data.

"Hooray for Ocala," May said during Friday's conference call with local workforce boards. "That's very good for them."

Here's how each county fared in September:

Citrus County's labor force shrank slightly from 58,503 to 58,383 over the month, but the number of employed rose by 99 to 51,612 and the number of those without jobs was 6,771, a drop of 219. Citrus' unemployment rate fell 1.3 percent over the year.

Levy County's labor force of 17,515 grew by 148 since August and by 135 over the year. The number of those with jobs rose by 176 to 15,594 while the number of unemployed fell by 28 to 1,921. The unemployment rate dropped 1.2 percent since September 2010.

Marion County's labor force expanded by 591 to 134,477 as did the number of employed, which was up 918 to 117,798. Those without jobs dropped from 17,006 to 16,679. Marion County's unemployment rate dropped 1.5 percent over the year. There are also 1,033 more people employed than a

(Continued on Page 3)

Chris Blair
for Sheriff
Family Picnic

This will be an exciting event with lots of fun, great food, door prize drawings, and family activities. It will be held on
South Eastern LiveStock Pavillion
2232 NE Jacksonville Rd. Ocala, FL.
The event will get underway on
Sunday
October 16, 2011 at 11:00 am
and will end at 5:00 pm with a variety of games and entertainment. A lunch of hamburgers, hotdogs, and other fixings will be served.



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Tickets will be available on-line at ChrisBlair4sheriff.com or call 352-229-2085 for individual sale beginning August 18, 2011
\$25.00 (Maximum of 4 family members) **\$8.00** (Individual ticket)

Contributors are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The purchase of a ticket for, or a contribution to, the campaign fund is a contribution to the Campaign of Chris Blair Federal Announcement. Paid for and Approved by Chris Blair, Republican for Marion County Sheriff.

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Unemployment Rate Drops

(Continued from Page 2)

year ago, and 2,190 fewer without jobs. The state's unemployment rate of 10.6

percent is down from 11 percent in August and 11.8 percent in September 2010. Becky Rust, DEO's chief economist, said that is the

lowest unemployment in Florida since August 2007. The national rate ticked down slightly from 9.1 percent to 8.8 percent.

For the sixth consecutive month, the Ocala MSA's unemployment ranked fourth highest among the state's 23 MSAs – down from second in March and third in April – behind Port St. Lucie's 12.6 percent, Sebastian-Vero Beach at 13.7 percent and Palm Coast at 14.6 percent.

Among Florida's 67 counties, Marion County's unemployment ranking dropped another notch to ninth highest. Citrus County rose slightly, from 17th to 18th, while Levy County fell two more places to 25th.

Total nonagricultural employment for the Ocala MSA was 90,400, up 200 jobs since August and 700 jobs over the year.

Workforce Connection serves job seekers and employers cost-effective, high-quality employment, training and education. 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 September 2011 unemployment report or to find out more about upcoming events and services, visit www.clmworkforce.com or call 1-800-434-JOBS, ext. 1234.

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

Tom's Picks is alive and well. Front page bottom left for well over a year we have been referring businesses to our readers. It all started when an elderly lady call me talking about her neighbor being taken for a large sum of money by an out-of-town rip off artist. Somehow these strangers found out this elderly lady wanted a swimming pool. They showed up at her door asking to give her a

quote to build her a pool. They had a van with lettering that suggested they were in the business of building pools. The price was cheaper than any of the other pool companies so they struck a deal, the pool company staked out the pool area and came back the next day with a peice of heavy equipment dug a hole in her back yard and asked for her \$8,000 deposit. They left and were nev-

er seen again. The check had been cashed, there was no permit, the lady had been taken. Every year we hear stories of how rip-off artists come in, represent themselves as businesses, get the money and run.

I decided to start Tom's Picks to help the area residents, especially the unsuspecting seniors. What I will do if they call me is put them with someone who has been here for a number of years and is invovled in the community, Chamber, local business clubs and my advertisers. I always suggest they shop and get quotes. We have referred plumbers, roofers, painters, attorneys, handymen, add on rooms, gutter repair, air conditioning companies. Boy, there is one AC guy that was calling all the businesses around him crooks while he was fleecing his customers. Thank God there is not too many of them, he is no longer in business. When they do that it does not take long for someone to call me and complain.

When dealing with anyone you don't know it is always good to ask for references and check the company out. Get a quote and hold them to it unless there is an unexpected problem, like they start cutting into a wall to install something and there is mold or termites. There is no way of seeing inside the wall. If something happens that you don't understand then check it out with someone you trust before the problem gets worse with a very large bill.

Tom's Picks is not perfect so check with several sources but we will always tell you the truth. Call Tom's Picks 352-804-1223

I used to cook a lot for small and large groups, so I am doing this next segment for the fun of it.

PUBLISHERS FOOD NOTES:

I should do a restaurant review. I eat lunch out almost every day and there are not many differences in the restaurants in Ocala and Lady Lake/Villages. I must admit I have not received any bad food. I have received luke warm coffee instead of a hot cup, I tell them

and they fix it. I have gotten poor service, which is not tolerable, and I usually will tell someone and no tip.

Good service, good food - MOJO Grill. The new locations at Ocala and Belleview met my every expectation. An average lunch is more than most can eat. Good food, good service at Harry's downtown Ocala on the square. Blacken grouper is excellent. I go to Olive Garden for the soup and salad deal, it is always good. Of course Ocala Business Leaders meeting on Wednesday mornings at the Elks club is consistently a good breakfast.

One of my favorites that I don't get to go to often is the Blue Gator, Dunnellon Florida. They have a blacken grouper sandwich that is delicious. A once-in-a-while treat is the Green Shutter, a big old house in Williston Florida converted into a restaurant. It is owned and run by a family. They serve some honest to goodness country homestyle cooking with many of their own recipes. If you want country you have to try this place at least once.

Eating at home - If you're trying to conserve you can really find some good deals. At almost any grocery store you can find whole fryers for about \$3.50 for two people and you just cut it long way through the breast and through the backbone and it makes enough meat for two meals. I like to start it on the grill, brown it and put it in a baking pan with barbeque sauce and seasoning on it. Pick your veggies and mashed or baked potatoes, and you fed two people for about \$4.00. When having steak, I watch for a sale on ribeyes, london broil, top round. Right now you can buy a london broil 3/4 inch thick for about \$8.00. Cut it in half and you have two meals for two people. Take the London Broil and punch it full of holes (both sides) with a fork and put a teaspoon of Dale's steak seasoning on both sides. Let it sit for about ten minutes to come down

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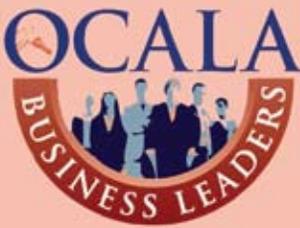
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Newspaper Deadlines
Editorial & Ad Copy for December
Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
12am, November 16th
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, November 23rd

Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

(Continued from Page 4)

to room temperature, then gently add a little bit of Grill Mates Montreal Steak seasoning. Put on the grill, cook to the desired point that you like it, add your favorite veggies and rice or potatoes. If you're baking potatoes, don't be afraid to bake an extra potato, then for breakfast you can slice it and fry it with your bacon and eggs. Don't forget to wash all your fresh veggies and fruits because of

all the problems we're having.

This was a different twist to my column that I have never done. Until next time.

Today is a gift, tomorrow is a dream.

Gadhafi, two of his sons are dead, who's next? Is it over? Where is the hand held rocket launchers??? Are these wars ever going to be over??? I HOPE SO! Death and destruction needs to stop!

Workforce Connection

Workforce Connection introduces new learning opportunities for job seekers

(OCALA, Fla.) Workforce Connection will offer a variety of new workshops for job seekers interested in sharpening employability skills.

All new programs, open to job seekers throughout Citrus, Levy and Marion counties, take place at the Workforce Connection Center, at 2703 NE 14th St., in Ocala. There is no charge to attend, but participants must be fully registered with Workforce through the Employ Florida Marketplace (EFM) at

www.EmployFlorida.com <<http://www.EmployFlorida.com>> .

Additional registration requirements vary depending on the program:

Workforce Connection also continues to offer "Retooling and Refueling for Success" for professionals and veterans. Each three-day workshop features a variety of instructors to provide career tools and help participants develop strategies to keep focused and successful during career transitions. The workshops take place at the College of Central Florida's Ocala campus. Eligibility requirements apply in addition to being fully registered with Employ Florida.

Retooling and Refueling workshops for veterans take place Dec. 13-15. The next workshop for professionals is set for Nov. 15-17. Registration is required; to sign up, email a professional resume to Projobs@clmworkforce.com or call 800-434-JOBS and ask to speak with a Workforce representative. More information is available at www.clmworkforce.com <<http://www.clmworkforce.com>> .

Workforce Connection is the local, business-led organization that strives to connect qualified workers with local employers in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties through cost-effective, high quality employment, training and education services in partnership with businesses, community-based organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies.

Marion Civic Chorale

<http://MarionCivicChorale.tripod.com/> (no WWW)

Starting in december here are our concert dates and locations:

The Four venues are:

- The Appleton Museum on Thursday, December 1, 2011, 5:00 pm.

Highway 40, Ocala, FL

- The Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal on Sunday, December 4th, 2011, 4:00 pm 2540 West Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto, FL

- St George Anglican Cathedral on Saturday, December 10th, 2011, 2:00 pm 5646 SE 28th Street, Ocala, FL

- Zion United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 11th, 2011, 3:00 pm

510 NW Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, Ocala, FL

25th Anniversary Celebration:

- First United Methodist Church on Sunday, May 6th, 2012, 3:00 pm

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
 Why is it that the Government thinks my wallet is their own personal money tree in the backyard? Why is it that the President can travel all over the United States continuously campaigning while the Country is falling apart? Who is tending the store? Why is it that the President waits until Congress

is on hiatus and then signs an executive order to pass something he knows Congress would never pass? Why did the President sent 100 ground troops to Uganda by executive order? Why is the President continuously criticizing the people who do not agree with him? Why is the President constantly putting the United States down? Why is the

President alienating all of our foreign allies? Why is so much of our money going to foreign countries that in most instances hate us? WHY?? What with high unemployment, astronomical debt, bankruptcies, home foreclosures, food prices going through the ceiling, rising health care costs, etc. it seems that the President and Congress have their priorities focused in the wrong direction.

ML

Dear Editor:

The wires are abuzz with OCCUPY WALL STREET. What, and who is it all about?

The Boomer Boobsy Twins of the union movement, Trumka and Hoffa, know what it is all about. Another chance to manipulate, exploit, and milk the lowest common denominator class. These union bullies never let a good crisis pass without exploiting it.

These self proclaimed champions of the down trodden, are ready to pounce at a moments notice, but are their motives pure? Their tactics legal, or moral? Why are they entitled to the lifestyles, and compensation, of any Robber Baron, off the backs of these unfortunates? They extort money from the down trodden, while holding themselves out as their champions. What a crock. Trumka and Hoffa are in it for the power, money, and status it gives to them. Bullying can be fun, and profitable.

It is our money that pays for all of the extortion that occurs. It is always our money that pays for everything. Costs go up. We pay.

Look how they strong arm anyone who asks for a secret ballot when union votes are taken. If that is not bullying, I do not know what is. Recently a woman testified to Congress that her group was denied {By the court} a secret ballot on a choice to join or reject the union. What kind of crap is that? Is this America anymore? I do not recognize it.

The college duffers at OWS are living proof of the value of a college education, today. FREE TUITION, FREE TUITION is their mantra. Forgive my debt; I took the money, now I do not want to pay it back.

Any time anyone yells free any more my ears perk up; it means I am going to have to be paying once more for someone else's largesse.

I cannot afford any more free stuff. I am at a point where I am about to need free stuff myself. Who will pay for my free stuff? Any volunteers?

Trumka, and Hoffa will still live like princes, if not kings, I will live as I did during the depression. Our resources are finite, not infinite. When will we learn????

Get rid of hedge funds, and derivatives, the Federal Reserve Bank and George Soros will not be able to become a trillionaire, or world dictator.

Who does not think that is a good idea?
 D.I. L.



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For more information, please contact:
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—Charlotte Poss

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Social Security Raise??

By Charlotte Poss

It has been in the papers and the news is out that there will be a raise in Social Security. This will start in January. What no one is talking about is that you will not benefit from this raise. The Medicare payment will increase taking away anything you may have gained. What else could or can happen? If you are a person who depends on only your Social Security for income, this raise could also hurt your eligibility for other benefits. Of these few dollars, more than likely you will never see, or get to spend will put you over the income level for many benefits that you now qualify for.

Income level eligibility for families have remained the same for many years not giving consideration or concern about the ever increasing cost of just surviving. One item is gasoline. It goes up and down like a yoyo. Your groceries have made a large dent in your wallet. The last time I checked there were 16 ounces in a pound. Now you go to buy an item it is in the same size packaging but you get 11.2 oz., or a 3 pound can of coffee is only 33., ounces. What happened to the other 15 ounces?

Getting back to the gasoline. Have you noticed that with the raising prices and the battles over gas since 2008, the 10% eth-

ylene that they add to the gas to make it cheaper takes away your mileage? Before ethylene, I was getting 23 to 25 miles per gallon now I am lucky if I get 18.

Since 2009 everyone was told that there would not be any increase in COLA for Social Security because the cost of living did not go up. Well, maybe it did not effect those who make the rules in government. But the increase in needed items to be able to live has had an impact on many people living on Social Security. Wait until the news comes out on how much Medicare will increase. Or by how many dollars you missed being able to get a reduced price on insurance or other needed items. Your income level has changed by a couple of dollars but all those forms that many people have to fill out that give guide lines for income have not reflected any changes.

What we need is less promises from legislators and those hopefuls who want to be and more action. Every politician should have to live at least six month as a senior on Social Security and see what it is like. Then maybe there will be changes that will benefit the elderly. Until then it will be the same, they will give you a little but take back a bundle anyway they can.

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Scheduled Public Meetings

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 14, 2011) – In accordance with Florida’s Sunshine Laws, the Marion County Office of Public Information will send “Sunshine Notices” to alert citizens of public meetings. Marion County Administration will send these notices once a week as a general practice, unless an unforeseen circumstance arises. Per state statute 286.0105, “...if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board...with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.” Two or more commissioners may attend the following:

Scheduled Meetings in November
 Nov. 10: Marion County Veterans helping Veterans, Inc. invited commissioners to the Tenth Annual Awards Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. at the Ocala Elks Lodge (702 NE 25th Ave., Ocala). For more information, contact Hank Whittier at 352-401-9788.
 Nov. 11: Marion County Public Schools invited commissioners to attend the Marion County Veterans Day Celebration at 11 a.m. at the Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park (2601 SE Fort King St., Ocala). For more information, contact the commission office at 352-438-2323.
 Nov. 18: The Florida Agriculture Center and Horse Park Foundation invited commissioners to attend the 2011 Legislative Trail Ride and Cookout at 10 a.m. at the Florida Horse Park (11008 S. Highway 475, Ocala).

For more information, contact Summer Best at 352-875-4428.
 Nov. 23: The Code Enforcement Board meeting originally scheduled for this date at 9 a.m. at the Marion County Growth Management training room (2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala) has been cancelled. For more information, contact Patti Jemery at 352-671-8912.

Dec. 28: The Code Enforcement Board meeting originally scheduled for this date at 9 a.m. at the Marion County Growth Management training room (2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala) has been cancelled. For more information, contact Patti Jemery at 352-671-8912.

Friends of the Library

Sponsored by the Friends of the Ocala Library, Author Sally Morrison and Illustrator Kate Barnes will talk about their book, “Cross Creek Kitchens: Seasonal Recipes and Reflections, Second Edition” on Sunday, November 13, at 2 p.m. in Room C at the main library on Silver Springs Boulevard. Morrison and her Cross Creek neigh-

bor, artist Kate Barnes, created the original book some 30 years ago. The new edition contains more than 150 recipes which remain relevant to modern-day food trends. The program is free to the public, and the Friends will serve refreshments. Visit friendsoftheocalalibrary.org for more information about the Friends.



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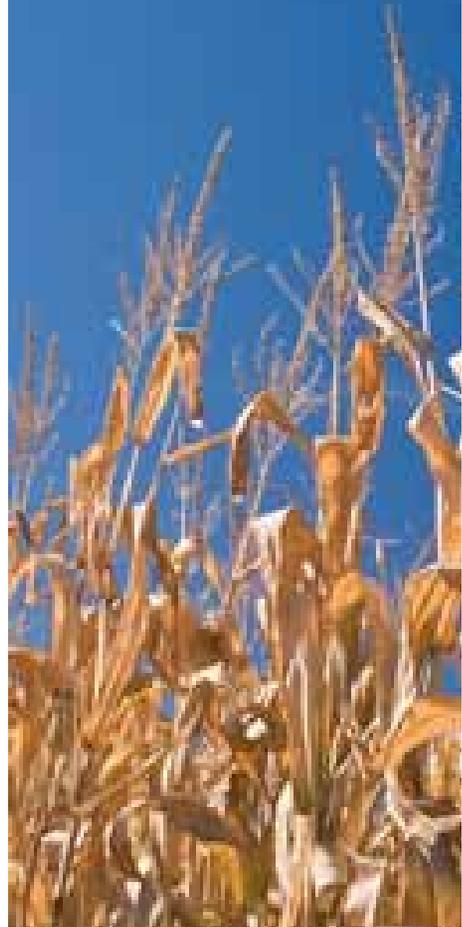





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Civil War Re-enactment

The 27th Annual Oklawaha River Raid Civil War Re-enactment/Living History Weekend

Weirsdale, Florida
November 5 and 6, 2011

The 27th Annual Oklawaha River Raid will be held on November 6 and 7, 2010, and is hosted by the 2nd battalion, Hardy's brigade Civil War Re-enactor/Living History unit. In cooperation with the Grand Oaks Resort (home of the Florida Carriage Museum) the event will be held at the resort grounds at 3000 Marion County Road near Weirsdale. This Living History event commemorates the March 1865 Union army raid on area plantations and

the resulting skirmish with local Southern troops that was the only battle of the Civil War to occur in Marion County.

A Brief History of the original Raid and Battle.

By the spring of 1865, nearly four years of war had gone by and though numerous battles had occurred in surrounding areas, no engagement had yet taken place in Marion County. But this fact was about to change. On March 7, 1865, Sergeant Major Henry Thomas and a company of Union soldiers of the 8th United States Colored Troops from the Union garrison at Jacksonville moved up the Saint Johns River by boat, disembark-

ing at a place known as Fort Gates. From here the Federal soldiers marched overland into Marion County. Crossing the Oklawaha River, the raiding party fell upon the Marshall's Plantation, a large syrup and sugar making facility that supplied provisions to Confederate forces. Here the attacking Federals destroyed some 80 gallons of syrup and 200 hogsheads of sugar along with the machinery and the main plantation house. Taking the slaves, wagons, horses, and assorted property with them, the Union troops started back toward the Oklawaha River.

Before long local Confederate troops became aware of the Federals' presence. While the Union men were setting about their actions at the plantation, a servant took to horseback and rode into Ocala and brought word of the raid. Captain Samuel Howse and the Ocala Home Guard militia responded and were soon on the march toward the Marshall's Plantation. Further, Captain John J. Dickison of Company H, 2nd Florida Cavalry, was near Ocala at the time and received similar notice of the enemy's actions. The Home Guard soon caught up with the raiding force just as they left the plantation, and a running battle now began toward the Oklawaha River. Falling back to the Marshall's ridge (near the site of the present-day Sharpes Ferry ridge), the Union troops withdrew across the Oklawaha River and set fire to the bridge, blocking the pursuit of the Home Guard. The skirmish resulted in two of the Home Guard killed and two mortally

wounded, with two dead and four wounded among the Federal ranks. Once across the Oklawaha, the Federal attacked another plantation but did not destroy it. They soon resumed their march, but the challenges for the Union force were not ended yet.

Upon hearing of the raid, Captain Diction moved toward the scene with 50 Confederate soldiers. The skirmish had concluded by the time he arrived in the area. Still, his command crossed the Oklawaha River and continued in pursuit of the Union force, which was now headed toward the Federal garrison at St. Augustine. Within a few miles of the city, Dickison's troops nearly caught up with their adversaries. Realizing the enemy was close behind, Thomas' Union soldiers abandoned their captured prizes and successfully entered the safety of Saint Augustine. All that they had taken from the plantations, save one horse killed during the raid, was returned to Marion County by the Confederates.

Each year on the first weekend of November, the past comes to life in the annual Oklawaha River Raid Civil War Re-enactment and Living History Weekend. From its humble beginnings in 1985 with some 85 re-enactors, the event has grown into a full Living History weekend that presently involves some 400 to 500 participants. These re-enactors gather from all across Florida, offering the public a look at life as it was in the 1860s.

Upon entering the site, the visiting
(Continued on Page 11)



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Civil War Re-enactment

(Continued from Page 10)
 public finds themselves surrounded by the sights and sounds of a bygone era. Numerous aspects of this time period are portrayed by Union and Con-federate soldiers as well as civilians of all ages. Spectators are welcome to wander the grounds

at their leisure and to converse with these Living Historians, many of whom are well versed and very knowledgeable about the time period and the role they portray. The weekend is filled with a full roster of events for the entire family.

John W. Brantley, Jr. Honored

State Representative Dennis Baxley Amends Bill to Honor John Brantley, Jr.

Ocala, FL (10/24/11)–The Transportation and Highway Safety Subcommittee passed Representative Dennis Baxley’s (R-Ocala) amendment to HB 15 Transportation Facility Designations to honor John W. Brantley, Jr. The amendment Designates the bridge on SR 40 crossing the Ocklawaha River, FDOT bridge number 360055, in Marion County as the “John W. Brantley, Jr. Bridge.”

“It’s important that we honor those who helped build Florida’s great future. Mr. Brantley was certainly among one of the great contributors to our State’s future,” said Representative Baxley.

The next Committee of Reference for HB 15 is the Economic Affairs Committee.

About John W. Brantley: Born on September 21, 1930, in Chester, SC, the son of the late Jack and Pearl Brantley. Mr. Brant-

ley, 80, passed away on July 23, 2011, after a battle with esophageal cancer.

Mr. Brantley was the President of Structures, Inc. (Division of Ballenger Corp.) one of the largest bridge contractors in the State of Florida. He built hundreds of bridges throughout the Southeast, with the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (Tampa Bay) being his prize project.

He also initiated the start of the Marion County Youth Football League upon moving to Ocala in 1970, starting with five teams. Today there are thirty four teams and 1,600 participants.

Mr. Brantley proudly served his country in the US Navy during the Korean conflict.

For more information about the bill or the Florida House of Representatives, please visit www.myfloridahouse.gov <<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>> .

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES FOR NOVEMBER

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AND 9TH AT 1:30 PM

“ARTHUR” Starring: Helen Mirren, Greta Gerwig, Dudley Moore, Russell Brand, Nick Nolte, Jennifer Garner and more.

The immature heir to a billion-dollar empire finds himself cut off from the family fortune after rejecting his arranged marriage to a nouveau riche socialite, and instead falling for a free-spirited unlicensed tour guide. Arthur (Brand) was raised in the lap of luxury. His family is wealthy beyond compare, and ever since he was a child his every whim has been catered to by his nanny, Hobson (Mirren), and his chauffeur, Bitterman (Guzman). But the party starts to wind down when Arthur's domineering mother (James) insists that he marry Susan (Garner), the daughter of a self-made millionaire (Nolte) who isn't above intimidating his future son-in-law into marriage. Vehemently opposed to the idea due to the fact that he and Susan have nothing in common, Arthur rejects the proposal after falling in love with Linda (Gerwig), an aspiring children's book author who pays the rent by giving unofficial tours of Grand Central Station. As a result, Arthur has to decide if he can face life as a normal member of the working class- and without his trusty flask of booze. RATED PG13

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, NO-

EMBER 22ND AND 23RD AT 1:30 PM

“THE NEXT THREE DAYS” Starring: Russell Crowe, Elizabeth Banks, Liam Neeson and more.

John Brennan (Crowe) and his wife, Lara (Banks) were happily married and raising a family when their lives fell apart. Lara has been charged with murder, and despite every effort to prove her innocence, the judge sentences her to an extended prison sentence. Meanwhile, on the outside, John files multiple appeals while struggling to raise their children and maintain his career. Determined to save his wife after the justice system failed her, John seeks the advice of ex-convict Damon (Neeson), who stages his own daring prison escape, in order to draw up an airtight plan. John prepares to put his life on the line for the woman he loves, and sets the plan into motion with the knowledge that one false move could be their last. RATED PG13

To reserve your seat, please call 8thAve. at 629-8545.

Coming in December “UNKNOWN” Events:

SEMINAR

Info on Medicare, Wills, Trusts, Life Insurance & More!

When: Monday, November 7, 2011

Where: 8th Ave. Adult Activity Center

Time: 10:00 AM to 11:00PM

What: Free Snacks and answers to your

questions about Medicare, Wills & Trusts, Life Insurance, Long-Term care, Asset Protection and VA benefits. Come join us. Bring your friends. Free seminar for all topics above. Presented by Banker's Life and Casualty Company

FALL INTO STEP DANCE

When: Friday, November 11, 2011 from 7:00 PM to 10:30 P

Where: American Legion Hall, Tusawilla Park, NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala

Cost: \$8:00 per person

What: “Fall into step” and dance the evening away. Ballroom dancing is fun for all ages! Music by DJ Trish Sands

FLU SHOTS

When: Monday, November 21st and November 28th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: 8th Avenue Adult Recreation Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

What: CVS Pharmacy will be providing flu shots at the 8th Ave. Adult Recreation Center on Monday, November 21st and 28th. Cash, credit card, Health Insurance and Medicare payments will be accepted. CVS representative will pre-screen to determine coverage by Health Insurance. Call the Center at 352-629-8545 beginning November 1,2011 to schedule a time for your

shot. Medicaid and Medicare covers cost and most insurances cover cost. It is \$29.99 cash or credit card, if you have no insurance.

TRIP - SHOW PLACE CHRISTMAS

When: Wednesday, November 30th

Where: Hudson, Florida

Cost: \$69.00 per person

Time: Leave 8th Ave. Senior Center at 9:00 AM Return at 6:00 PM

What: Help spread some holiday cheer with a Christmas musical. The show celebrates Christmas and Hanukkah with an exhilarating production high-energy dancing and special appearances by many of your favorite holiday characters. Come and join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

NEW! NEW! NEW! COMING IN JANUARY

BALLROOM DANCE CLASS

When: Thursdays starting January 5th

Where: 830 NE 8th Ave. at the 8th Ave. Rec. Center Time: 9:3-AM to 10:30 AM for Beginners and 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM for Intermediate

Cost: \$35.00 for 4 week session

What: Learn all types of Ballroom Dancing with teacher Trish Sands

A Home-Cooked Holiday Feast

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(Continued on Page 13)



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A Home-Cooked Holiday Feast

(Continued from Page 12)

vors your family loves. Each one uses a touch of Better Than Bouillon food base, adding richer, more natural flavor than bouillon cubes, which are salt-heavy. Each flavor is made from real meat, seafood or vegetables and can be used in a variety of delicious ways:

- To make richer soups, sauces and gravies.
- As savory additions to pasta, potato or vegetable side dishes.
- In flavorful party dips for veggies, chips or bread.

It's easy to make an impressive holiday feast with these delicious recipes. For even more recipes, visit www.superiortouch.com.



Holiday Glazed Ham

Serves 10 to 12

1/3 cup reduced fat raspberry vinaigrette salad dressing

1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar

2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Vegetable Base

2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base

1 7 to 10-pound thawed, smoked, bone-in, spiral sliced, fully cooked ham

1/2 cup water

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large saucepan over medium-low heat, whisk to combine vinaigrette, brown sugar, vegetable and

chili bases. Whisk continuously until glaze begins to boil. Remove from heat; reheat glaze if needed.

Coat large rack and roasting pan with cooking spray. Place ham on prepared rack in roasting pan, add water to pan bottom. Generously brush ham with glaze. Lightly cover ham with foil if ham starts to over brown. Bake until done, about 2 hours.

Use remaining glaze to baste ham every 30 minutes; discard left over glaze.

An additional glaze recipe may be prepared and served warm tableside, to accompany sliced ham.



Sautéed Green Beans

Serves 6 to 8

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

2 tablespoons Better Than Bouillon Chili Base

2 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced

2 tablespoons butter

1 1/2 pounds frozen whole green beans

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt (optional)

Parmesan cheese, for garnish

Heat oil in a large skillet, heat over medium-high heat. Add chili base, garlic and salt; cook and stir for about 1 minute.

Reduce heat to medium, add butter and stir until melted. Add green beans, stir to coat and sauté until crisp-tender.

Before serving, garnish with freshly shaved Parmesan cheese.

Delicious Twice-Baked Potatoes

Serves 6 to 8

6 medium russet potatoes (about 2 pounds)

2 teaspoons vegetable oil (for potato skins)
2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Ham Base
1/4 cup (4 tablespoons) butter cut into pieces,
set aside

1

1/2 cups

shredded

Colby-

Jack

cheese

1

green onion

rinsed

and thinly

sliced, set aside

1/4 cup whole milk

1 tablespoon dried parsley

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/3 cup pre-grated Parmesan cheese

Spray 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish with cooking spray, set aside.

Scrub and pat dry potatoes; prick potatoes with fork 2 to 3 times per side. Lightly oil skins with vegetable oil; place potatoes on a microwave safe dish. Microwave according to microwave directions.

Remove hot potatoes from microwave when done, set aside for 5 minutes to cool.

Cut potatoes in half lengthwise with a serrated knife. Fold a sheet of paper towel to hold hot potato half, use a spoon to scoop out potato flesh into a large mixing bowl, leaving about a 1/4-inch-thick shell. Place skins in prepared dish, set aside.

Add ham base and butter to mixing bowl with potatoes; beat with electric mixer on medium for about 1 minute. Add cheese, onion, milk, parsley, garlic powder and pepper; beat just until blended. Be careful not to over-beat potatoes.

Evenly spoon potato mixture into skins; shake pre-grated Parmesan cheese over tops.

Warm potatoes in microwave or place in a 350°F oven and heat through. To brown tops, place warmed potatoes under broiler for 2 to 3 minutes.

Twice baked potatoes can be made a day



ahead. Stuff the potatoes, then cover and refrigerate them; then, on serving day, warm as instructed above.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Serves 6

1/4 cup butter

1 16-ounce package button mushrooms, rinsed, stems trimmed and sliced

1/2 cup chopped yellow onion (1 small onion)

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon dried tarragon

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon white pepper

2 teaspoons Better Than Bouillon Organic Mushroom Base

1 tablespoon Better Than Bouillon Organic Chicken Base

4 cups water

2 cups heavy cream

Salt and pepper to taste

In soup pot, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and onion; cook and stir until liquid evaporates, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Add flour, dry seasonings, mushroom and chicken bases; stir to combine.

Add water and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Remove soup from heat and puree with a hand held immersion blender, or in batches in the blender.

Return blended soup to medium-low heat and add cream. Cook and stir until soup is thoroughly heated, about 5 to 8 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

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Senior Fishing Derby



Setting this group up for fishing - they caught plenty of fish.

The Senior Fishing Derby was put on by Ocala Recreation and Parks and TomL Publishing LLC / Seniors Voice.

A quick thank you goes out to: Wayne Rush for cooking.

Grace Huffman for being the coordinator.

Floyd Hershberger of BJ Trophies.

Golden Flake/Phyllis for helping support us.

Chris Blair for volunteering his time.

Linda Gyax, TD Insurance, for furnishing door prizes

Thanks to Diane Leaf for doing the shopping and coordinating the cooking.

Thanks to Carla Chindamo of City Recreation and Parks

Thanks to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the loan of the fishing poles.

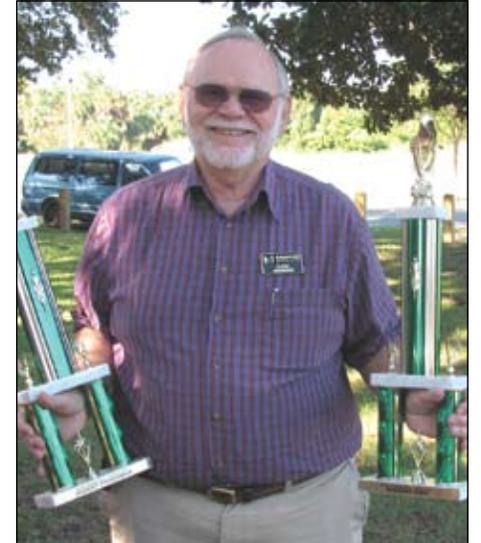
Thanks to the servers:

Patricia Bland

Annie Coleman

Helen Coleman

And of course thanks to TomL Publishing LLC for their help in putting this fishing derby on. The next Derby will be April 2, 2012. Mark you calendar to call the senior center early March to make your reservations.



Floyd Hershberger of BJ Trophies poses with the trophies his company furnished.



On left James H. Brown, Ocala caught biggest fish and Enes Trifletti of Hampton Manor was the oldest fisher person at age 94. She don't look a day over 60.



Cook Wayne Rush, who works for the city, looking into the cooker. This was not his first rodeo, he's a good cook.



This a happy group from Hawthorne Village.



Over one hundred fifty attended the senior Fishing Derby.



Here we see Chris Blair get the hook out of the fish so that it could be released.

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