

ocala

A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

DownTown

BUY LOCAL!

Take Me Home!

FREE

Volume 3 Issue 1
January, 2012



Breast Cancer Survivors

Angels for the 2012 calendar representing Breast Cancer Survivors

"I'm Dreaming of a Pink Christmas"

The Christmas float is carrying the 2012 calendar Angels, are Ladies that were chosen by "All about You Boutiques" to represent Breast Cancer Survivors in the 2012 calendar to raise breast cancer awareness and monies for a cancer organization called "Making Strides".

The float is sponsored by Chris Blair who approached Lori Timmeck, owner of All About You Boutiques, to share with her the idea of entering a float representing the ladies portrayed in the calendar in order to promote breast cancer awareness. Lori was so excited that she wanted to help Chris sponsor the float and she reached out to the ladies who immediately wanted to take part

(Continued on Page 2)

Vintage Ferris Wheel

Story on Page 3

Ring in The New Year

By Jackie Porter

Ring in the 2012 New Year by Volunteering:

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic
Art, Music and PE
Parks, Puppies, and Libraries

Have you ever thought for a minute that your "minutes" count towards helping someone else? Marion County Public Schools had 10,777,217 (Ten Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand, Two Hundred Seventeen) minutes of volunteer time

(Continued on Page 3)



Jackie Porter



Brody Reads Our Paper - Commissioner Dan Vincent took Grandson Brody, age 2-1/2, to the Town Hall to watch the school children decorate the Christmas tree. Brody's interest was only in the Lady Lake Magazine. Photos by Sharon Vincent will cause you to crack a smile. Guess starting them young could be a great way to increase the readership in the publication. Sharon Brody says "we're certainly sold!"

Tom's Picks

**Do you need some work done and don't know who to call?
Call Tom's Picks at 804-1223**

December referrals from Tom's Picks include:
•Lawncare •Lawn Design
•Roof Repair •Plumbing

Presorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit #168
ECRWSS
Ocala, FL
Postal Customer



**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS
IN GOD WE TRUST**

Reflections

by Tom Loury

Reflecting back, as we came to the end of 2011, there were some negative challenges and positive challenges.

Last year at this time, I was stepping down from the presidency of the Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce after a two year term. With the cooperation and efforts of the Board of Directors and Executive Director Peggy Hayes, the chamber had a prosperous two years. When some organizations were losing membership and revenue we were on the gain.

Also, this time last year, I was stepping up as president of the Ocala Business Leaders. This was a challenging year because of the economy and the unemployment rating being very high in Marion county. The Board of Directors and the members worked hard with new ideas on how to grow the club. Their efforts paid off. The club is strong, has a new Magazine/Directory being published very soon and has a new Board of Directors with new ideas. 2012 promises to be a great year for the club.

Now, I'm stepping down as president of the Ocala Business Leaders. As with all clubs, there have been challenges, both positive and negative. The club has grown strong and, as I said, with new ideas and younger members, which is a good thing. As a member of the Ocala Business Leaders, you can count on being treated with respect, and

each business will use the services of the members and refer them to others.

My wish for all for the coming year is ENOUGH. I wish for the farmers enough sunshine and rain to grow their crops. I wish for good politicians, running for office, enough votes. I wish for businesses in the area, enough business to prosper!

To our customers, some of whom have been with us for years, THANK YOU. We could not have done it without you. To my GM. Wendy Netherclift, THANK YOU! I could not have done it without you.

I have made friends through business that have bridged the gap into personal friends. They know who they are and I thank them all the time and appreciate them. I would like to especially thank Sam McConnell for all he has done. The biggie is that we have all prayed together.

To our readers, without you, your feedback, letters to the editor, and use of the advertisers, there would not be a need for newspapers. We thank you and appreciate you. Be sure you tell our advertisers that you use where you saw their ad.

I especially want to thank my family and close friends for being patient with hectic deadlines during our daily lives

Last but not least I will pray for the opportunity to be of help to more people in 2012. God Bless.

Happy New Year

Breast Cancer Survivors

(Continued from Page)

in this great idea. Chris was able to get many co-sponsors such as; Home Depot, Georgia Carpet, and Lowes to provide materials for the float. The trailer, semi, and driver were donated by Ike Rainey with Rainey's Construction and Bobby Tillander provided the facility where the float was built. Tommy Sauer provided the generators and Tammy Griffin was the on-hand photographer taking many photographs of the ladies and the float as it was preparing for the parade.

The float was 48 feet long and took a week to construct by Chris Blair, Tommy Bibb and Fred LaTorre. Once it was constructed it was decorated by volunteers from members of the calendar, family, and friends.

The beginning of the float had a banner introducing the float and the Breast Cancer Angels of 2012 which was carried by cheerleaders, Laurel Mengers and Holly Tackett.

The Theme was "I'm Dreaming of a Pink Christmas," an idea thought up by Sangi Blair, a breast cancer survivor.

The float represents the theme decorated in pink with many lights and breast cancer ribbons, six lighted pink angels overlooking the ladies who were dressed in pink gloves,

and Santa hats. All the ladies were dressed the same and were excited to be a part of the parade. Some of the ladies are still going through breast cancer treatments.

The float also had a Christmas tree that was decorated with many gifts, lights, and pink ribbons.

The float had an on board singer David Castronova from Ocala who was singing "I'm Dreaming of a Pink Christmas" and many other songs along the Christmas parade route.

This float demonstrates the heart, courage, hope, love, and strength of each of the women as they meet the challenges of Breast Cancer. It further represents that each of them can find solace in knowing that the fight for breast cancer can be won, and there are many loved ones that support them each day through their challenges.

The float received standing ovations from many of the spectators and as it traveled along Silver Springs Blvd several women in the crowd hollered, "I am a breast cancer survivor!" The float touched many lives that evening and gave the ladies aboard the float a fantastic "Pink Christmas" and a night that they will never forget. The float received third place in the Commercial Division.

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SPA

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3643 NE 8th Pl. (Off 36th Ave.) Ocala

Spa II 237-6149

2841 SW 20th St. (Near CF) Ocala

Spa III 245-2800

5300 SE 110th St. (Behind Sonny's) Belleview

Spa IV 489-3383

2174 W. Dunnellon Rd, Dunnellon

www.tooyourhealthspa.org

Vintage Ferris Wheel

DBA Holiday Ferris Wheel “Comes Back Around!”

Area residents and visitors can Ride The Ferris Wheel. Enjoy the festive holiday lights from a higher perspective!

The Downtown Business Alliance, Inc. Working in conjunction with the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department, contracted for a 50’s vintage Holiday Ferris Wheel ride for the second year in a row. The Ferris wheel will be located on the vacant lot adjacent to the Downtown Ocala Square and will be fully operational through January 3, 2012. Saturday morning hours have been added to this year. The ride will be closed on

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Admission tickets cost only \$3 per person.

Hours of Ride Operation:

Monday - Thursday 5 - 9 pm

Friday 5 - 10:30 pm

Saturday 9am-12Noon and 5-10:30 pm

Sunday 5 - 9 pm

The Downtown Business Alliance, Inc. (DBA) is a not-for-profit organization, founded and operated by volunteer business owners and community members, whose mission is to promote and support economic and cultural development of Historic Downtown Ocala.

Ringling In The New Year

(Continued from Page 1)

logged in for twelve months.

How is that for statistics!

This year, make a decision that your minutes will be fun, exciting, and most of all helping the community. There are so many volunteer opportunities in Marion County. Marion County Public Schools has a spot for you! If the classroom is not your cup of tea, or coffee, try the school library (media center). Teachers need organization helpers too. If your expertise is organizing, there

are plenty of fundraising needs at each and every school. If children are not the right fit for you, what about volunteering at one of Marion County Parks or even the Marion County Humane Society. The puppies need walking exercise too. No matter where you decide to Volunteer, you will increase your public awareness of the importance of helping Marion County children, being aware of our natural resources available here, and gain faith, hope and love for 2012.

Your opinion matters to us!

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



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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES

What about 2011. A busy year. The year took me places I did not want to go. My policies conflict with my personal feelings. I have trouble backing out or stepping out quietly and not going forward with an issue when it involves someone I know. I always say I will follow a story no matter where it goes. That is not always easy!

Going into 2012 I need to explain that stories don't make me any money; actually it sometimes costs me money. When an advertiser does not agree with a letter to the editor or something I wrote, then they will sometimes cancel. They don't seem to understand that each story is one person's opinion and that they have the right to see their opinion in print. If you don't agree with an opinion in the paper, write a letter to the editor.

When advertising someone makes a statement that they got 5 calls from an ad in a magazine or a newspaper - I ask what does that breakdown in dollars per customer? How much did each customer spend? Are you reaching the right readers based on the products you sell? An advertiser recently

spent \$5,000 on an ad and got a number of calls. In the end less than one hundred dollars was spent in the store. One of the most successful businesses that I know of runs ads in mom and pop papers or community newspapers and he runs a consistent ad schedule. He nets millions.

We don't usually have a problem with readers reading the editorial content, I just want to make sure they are using the ads. Ads are an important tool for you to shop with, use our advertisers.

We have a new service called Tom's Picks. A small percentage of the time people who call in to ask me who they should buy services or a product from. I ask what paper do you have in front of you? When I find that out I say turn to page five and I give them the name of an ad that invites them to do business with a particular business. When businesses advertise they want to see and feel the results.

We ran a test several times and actually sent family members in because the offer was a good one. The advertiser said I did not get one call. It is probably because the

person in the store did not ask. When the boss asks the employee, "did anyone come in from the ad?" the employee is not going to say I forgot to ask. If an ad does not work and you have offered a good deal we're not giving the right message or they are not reading the ad.

Everyone thinks that people scan from left to right. According to national research readers scan an ad in a C or S configuration. They actually start from the top right, move to the left, down and to the right and sometimes back to the left, it depends on the height of the ad. Also advertisers think the right hand page gets much more readership. But the research shows the righthand page gives you 3 % more readership.

So we need you to read our ads and tell the advertiser when you buy something. Take the paper with you and leave it for the

owner.

Postal Service

One last thing: The Post Office has to pay the government millions of dollars a year. If it was not for that they would be holding their own. When someone refers to "snail mail" I don't understand what they mean. I get good service from the Post Office. In each county I get one day turnaround.

Love Like Gravity Band played on the Downtown square Friday the 16th. The band plays Christian Rock and is out of Valdosta GA. My son, Justin, plays lead guitar in the band. The band has all kinds of good things happening for them. They have a number one hit, a song called STRONGER.

Good luck son!

Snail Mail???

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www.chrisblair4sheriff.com

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Fred LaTorre 572-1217
Chris Blair 229-2085

Paid for and Authorized by Chris Blair, Republican Chris Blair for Sheriff, Marion County Florida

Ocala DownTown

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for February

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, January 18th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, January 25th

ONE PERSON'S OPINION
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
 For decades citizens have heard stories about Vietnam Vets having serious issues, and did not seem to pay much attention. We assumed that the billions spent by the government took care of all their issues. That certainly, was not true. They were trashed by the Hippies, now, the OWS are trying to do the same thing, to these new vets. Calling vets all sorts of obscene names. We cannot allow them to get away with that this time. Our vets, are out heroes, and saviors, and are deserving of any, and all the accolades

we can give them.
 However, we are faced with a new war, and new issues. This time two things are different. First, it is sinking in that these men risked their lives to preserve our freedom, and that freedom is in jeopardy, today. Second, we are seeing pictures, and videos of these vets and their serious wounds. These things have struck a chord deep within the American soul.

As a result, the Tea Party of Ocala has decided to undertake, as its charity, to support: The Local Vets Helping Vets program. Ev-

ery community has its own wounded vets, and if each took care of its own, that would be tremendous. Tea Party people have patriotism in their blood, and care seriously about freedom. These vets are the symbol of that freedom, and are deserving of our help, and profound respect, and gratitude. Citizens Helping Local Vets.

Mr. Hank Whittier is the shepherd who guides this program, and it is in very good hands. He truly cares about the people he serves. Mr. Whittier has suggested this list of items that are in constant demand, and then there are special needs as well. Some of the common needs are: Food, they have a food bank, at Vets Helping Vets. The location is : The Cascades Complex on Silver

Springs BLVD. 1515, and the office is 115, Down under the waterfall. Gift cards are much needed items. Gas cards {number one hit}, gift cards for clothing, food, etc., and a rather large item, for those who can afford a larger gift, Insurance. Mr. Whittier noted that the government does not provide insurance, and the program tries to help when they can.

This is a story about the vets, not the Tea Party, but is told in the hope of spurring others in the community to give their support to OUR local veterans. They are ours, and we should take care of our own, first. If this has touched you in any way, please visit the Vets Helping Vets, and see what you can do to help.

There is one other important aspect to this story. If I, you, we care about FREEDOM, we must all vote. This is important, and will help, the vets, and the rest of us as well. If the vets, can fight for freedom, surely, we can do something as simple as vote. If we cannot get off our tuckises to phone for an absentee ballot, we do not deserve freedom. Voting is a right, a privilege, and a duty, as much as serving in the military. Are we all good Americans? Let us act like it. Help the vets, and vote. And let us not forget to pray to GOD for a happy ending to our present travails.

Merry Christmas to all. Help the vets, please? And for GOD's sake vote. Register, now. Make that call to Dee Brown;'s office, now. Right now.

D.I. L.

Dear Editor,

What is all the hoopla about voting? Until, I want to say, the 90's voting was on one day only. There was no early voting. If you wanted to vote you made sure that you made it to the polls on that one day. Then early voting came into existence and with it a pain in the backside. Yes, it was convenient and you didn,t have to stand in long lines to vote. However, then the complaints started. Early voting days are too long; no early voting days are too short. Now you have voting rights groups filing lawsuits in federal court to block a new law shortening the length of time for early voting and argues that the law violates the right to free speech and fails to give fair notice of how to comply with the law. Give me a break. How many days do you need to vote? If you want to vote you register with the proper identification and vote. Do we, as adults, need to be taken by the hand and showed what to do in every facet of our lives?

LL

Dear Editor:

The Last War, must be the WOMAN's WAR on MACHOISM {the most horrible ism of them all}. It has been unfettered for centuries.

Where are the Feminists? What was that movement all about? It was about Macho women trying to out-macho men. Nothing to do with Women's rights. Women cannot count on feminist help in this war.

Why a Women's WAR? Fix what is really wrong.

Headline:

1. America's Child Sex Trafficking Report Card. We spend money on Studies,

(Continued on Page 6)

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 5)

rather than the Problem. Unconscionable behavior.

2. President of Arab country grants freedom from prison to woman if she agrees to marry her rapist.

3. History Channel video on the grooming of Arab Boys as Sex toys for men. Watch it. Domination, and Torture VOMIT!!!!!!

If these are not reasons, enough for this war, you tell me what is.

We have tolerated Macho immaturity, barbarity, cruelty, and self centeredness long enough. We have made great progress in all areas save this.

Women it is time to stand up, and say "NO MORE". Bring men out of the Dark Ages.

Let us make the 21st Century the Century of true Women's Liberation . Liberation from abuse, domination, and torture.

Women are humans, too. Not possessions', or, cattle.

Smart mouth B***** do not count. They will not help in this war.

WHY??? Why can't we be nice to each other? If war is the only way to make men behave, then let's have at it. Ladies our turn to OCCUPY something.

D. I. Larson

The Hassle Is Over

By Charlotte Poss

Children cannot wait until Christmas comes, and many adults cannot wait until it is over. What a beautiful time of the year. If only everyone could carry the merry, heartwarming feelings around all year. Have you noticed that people just seem friendlier and kinder when the Christmas Holiday comes around? Christmas brings out the kid in all of us.

The sad part of Christmas is that it has become so commercialized. I remember getting up on Christmas mornings' to find a real stocking hanging up that was filled with an orange, apple, some hard candy and some mixed nuts still in their shells. Today the items found in a perfect store bought stocking can put a big dent in the old checkbook. Gifts under the tree were mostly handmade or things that were needed such as socks and mittens, and do not forget the underwear.

The debt that parents go into for the holidays today is sad. The amount that is spent on one item, for one child cost more than what used to be spent on an entire household. The parents now have to start thinking about paying down their credit cards and already know that they have to start thinking about next year.

Everyone has forgotten what Christmas is all about. It would be nice if some day we all start backing up a little bit and start having old fashion Christmas's again.

It was not that long ago that stores were not open on Sundays or Holidays. If you forgot to buy something, you did without until the store opened on Monday or the day after the Holiday.

Getting ready for Christmas was not a lot of work back then and it sure was a lot of fun. Wrapping paper was the Sunday papers funnies. Bows were hair ribbons that were used to hold your pigtails and used again after the packages were opened.

It is that time of the year that everyone thinks back to his or her childhood and remembers the days that will always remain in their memories. Memories that will last a lifetime. My Christmas wish for this generation is that they can make some good memories that they can always look back on.

I hope that everyone had the best Christmas ever and that the New Year, 2012, brings love, peace and good health to everyone.

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY MOVIES

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH & 11TH AT 1:30 PM

“WATER FOR ELEPHANTS” STARRING: REESE WITHERSPOON, ROBERT PATTINSON, CHRISTOPH WALTZ AND OTHERS.

A handsome veterinary student falls for a married circus performer in this romantic drama. When Jacob (Pattinson) meets Marlena (Witherspoon), it's love at first sight. Their shared affections for an extraordinary elephant stir profound feelings of compassion within both of them. There is a love that could span lifetimes, though the wrath of

Marlena's dangerously domineering husband, August (Waltz) threatens to spell tragedy for all involved. RATED PG 13

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH & 25TH AT 1:30 PM

“HEREAFTER” STARRING: MATT DAMON, CECILE DeFRANCE, JAY MOHR, BRYCE DALLAS HOWARD AND OTHERS.

Director Clint Eastwood delves into the mysterious world of the hereafter with this supernatural drama. In the wake of a near death experience during a powerful tsunami, French television reporter Marie (DeFrance) takes her married lover's advice to pen the political book she has always talked about writing. As hard as Marie tries to stay focused on the task at hand, however, she

repeatedly finds her attention diverted to scientists who have been stigmatized for investigating the afterlife. Meanwhile, in America, reluctant psychic George (Damon) struggles in vain to cease using his powers for profit while falling for a gorgeous stranger. All the while, his greedy brother (Mohr) prods him to milk his ability for all it's worth. RATED PG 13

COMING IN FEBRUARY “Seven Days in Utopia” “Zookeeper”

The latest videos are shown two times per month. Reservations must be made at the 8th Ave. Senior Center. Seating is limited to eight persons per video. Please call 629-8545 to reserve your seat.

JANUARY 2012 EVENTS

BALLROOM DANCE CLASS

When: Thursdays starting January 5th 2012

Time: 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM for beginners and 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM for intermediates

Where: 830 NE 8th Ave. Ocala at the Adult Recreation Center

Cost: \$35.00 for a 4 week session

What: Think you have two left feet? Always wanted to tango? Are you the one sitting at the table while your spouse enjoys dancing with others? Take the right step and join instructor Trish Sands as she teaches the steps to a variety of ballroom dances. For more information call the Center at 629-8545.

TRIP:
SHOW: HAIRSPRAY
When: Thursday, January 19th, 2012
Where: Hudson, Florida
Time: Leave 8th Ave, Adult Recreation Center at 9:00 AM. Return at 6:00 PM.
Cost: \$71.00 per person
What: Tracy Turnblad has a passion for dancing and wins a spot on the local TV dance program. Overnight she finds herself transformed from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger than life adolescent manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while of course) without missing her hair? Don't miss this great show. Registration is limited

to 45 participants, so be the first to secure your seat! For more information, contact Grace at 352-629-8357.

INCOME TAX HELP

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting February 1st, thru April 16th, 2012

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

What: AARP Tax Help is available on these days. Please bring all your necessary documents including SS Card, W-2 Forms, 1099 Forms, last year's taxes, driver's license and some form of ID.








OCALA

MARION COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our Mission:
Improving the business climate, economy and quality of life in Ocala and Marion County

Who We Are:
A critical mass of over 2,300 community minded business professionals

Our Credentials:




We invite you to get acquainted at an upcoming
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For more information, please contact
 Jillienne Allgauer at 352-629-8051
 or via email at jillienne@ocalacc.com

Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce
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804-1223

Governor Rick Scott

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Governor Scott Appoints Judge Nick Nazaretian to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott today announced the appointment of Judge Nick Nazaretian, of Tampa, to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court.

Judge Nazaretian, 49, has served as a Hillsborough County Court Judge since 2001. Previously, he practiced with Griffen and Associates from 2000 to 2001. From 1990 to 2000, he served as a division chief for the Hillsborough State Attorney's Office, and from 1987 to 1990, he was a felony trial attorney with the Pinellas Public Defender's Office. Judge Nazaretian received a bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida and a law degree from Nova Southeastern University.

"Judge Nazaretian's service for the past nine years on the County Court and during temporary duty on the Circuit Court has well prepared him for elevation to the position of Circuit Court Judge," Governor Scott said. "His extensive courtroom experience throughout his 25-year legal career, as well as his careful attention to the rule of law, will serve the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit well."

Judge Nazaretian will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Wayne S. Timmerman.

Weekly Radio Address – Friday, Decem-

ber 16, 2011

Hi, this is Governor Rick Scott.

It has been a great week. First, looking at the jobs picture, which is how I measure my performance as Governor each month, we've had a great week. Unemployment has gone from 12 percent in December, the month before I took office, to 10 percent in November. We've added over 130,000 private sector jobs in Florida. We've clearly turned the corner. We still have 900,000 people out of work, but we're making progress each and every month.

I just got back from Israel. It was my fourth trade mission. I've been to Panama, Canada, Brazil and now Israel. All of these trade missions are about one thing: how can we get more jobs for Floridians. The way that we bring jobs to our state is by building relationships. You build relationships in Florida and around the world, so companies will buy our products, utilize our services and invest in Florida. It was a great trip, and I am hoping for big results.

I hope everybody has a great time preparing for the holidays and a great and prosperous new year.

Governor Rick Scott Appoints Crawford and Wallace to

Children and Youth Cabinet

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the reappointment of Toni

K. Crawford and the appointment of Dr. Steven Wallace to the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Crawford, 71, of Ponte Vedra Beach, is a community volunteer and current chair of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval Inc. She is reappointed for a term beginning December 16, 2011, and ending August 27, 2015.

Dr. Wallace, 59, of Jacksonville, is the president of Florida State College at Jacksonville. He succeeds Donna "Gay" Lancaster and is appointed for a term beginning December 16, 2011, and ending August 27, 2015.

STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR SCOTT REGARDING TWO FLORIDA OIL SPILL EARLY RESTORATION PROJECTS ANNOUNCED TODAY

Tallahassee, Fla. - "Florida's first two projects are important to restoring the natural resources of the Gulf Coast and helping businesses and tourism recover from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

"These projects will address damage to the environment, as well as loss of recreational and outdoor opportunities. Restoring these damages is vital to the communities of the Gulf Coast.

"I want to commend my fellow Trustees for their collaborative efforts, and pledge Florida's continued support as we move into the next phase of restoration. Working together with our state, local and federal partners, we can continue to help our coastal communities with their recovery. Florida's

projects will help local economies by creating more opportunities to get our Gulf Coast citizens back to work."

Governor Rick Scott Appoints Two to Board of Architecture and Interior Design

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointments of Miguel A. Rodriguez and Jonathan A. Toppe to the Board of Architecture and Interior Design.

Rodriguez, 54, of Coral Gables, is the president of Rodriguez Architects. He succeeds E. Wendell Hall and is appointed for a term beginning December 15, 2011, and ending October 31, 2015.

Toppe, 65, of St. Petersburg, is the president of Toppe Consultants Inc. He succeeds Johnstone N. Reid and is appointed for a term beginning December 15, 2011, and ending October 31, 2013.

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

Update on FAMU Investigations

After returning from a trade mission to Israel today, Governor Scott was briefed by members of his senior staff regarding the latest developments in the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) investigations. Governor Scott has since had a conversation with FAMU Board of Trustees Chairman Solomon Badger regarding the Board's meeting next Monday, Dec. 19. Governor Scott has strongly recommended to Chairman Badger that at the meeting, the

(Continued on Page 9)



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SUN	Closed
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THUR	7:30AM - 6:00PM
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Governor Rick Scott FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 8)

Board of Trustees place FAMU President James Ammons on suspension, effective immediately, until the investigations at the University are completed. Governor Scott has also placed a call to FAMU President Ammons to personally notify him of these discussions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Governor Scott's press office at (850) 488-5394.

Governor Rick Scott Appoints Suzanne Wilhoite to Board of Cosmetology

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Suzanne C. Wilhoite to the Board of Cosmetology.

Wilhoite, 52, of Jacksonville, is a self-

employed cosmetologist. She succeeds Rosabel Ramos and is appointed for a term beginning December 16, 2011, and ending October 31, 2014.

The appointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT REGARDING THE RACE TO THE TOP EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE

Tallahassee, Fla. – “It is unfortunate that the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services decided not to award Florida the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant which would have gone to the benefit of at-risk children.

“When Florida’s application was sub-

mitted for the grant in October, we made it clear that we would not accept grant money with strings attached, additional state spending obligations, or requirements that created new burdensome regulations on private providers. We stuck to our principles, and unfortunately our insistence against irresponsibly using one-time dollars for recurring government programs did not win the favor of the administration in Washington.

“Creating a world-class education system that prepares students for the workforce is my top priority. We will accomplish this goal for the benefit of our current students and generations of Floridians to come without sacrificing responsible spending.

“Last week I announced my budget recommendations for next fiscal year, and I have asked for \$1 billion in new funding for education. I have traveled the state and listened to the people of Florida, and it is clear that education, and its correlation to

quality jobs, is the top issue facing our state. I will continue to work every day to ensure that every Floridian has the opportunity for a good education and a job.”

###

STATEMENT FROM FLORIDA OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING DIRECTOR MEL JURADO

Tallahassee, Fla. – “I support Governor Scott’s principled approach to creating a world-class education system for all of Florida’s students, including our earliest learners. Governor Scott’s opposition to irresponsible spending is in the best interest of the state, despite the wishes of the administration in Washington. We will continue to carry out the Governor’s vision to create a great education system in Florida that will prepare our youth for the workforce.”



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Marion Co. Public Information

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Dec. 9, 2011) – Marion County Animal Services staff worked late into Wednesday night to take custody of 28 dogs and 18 cats that were living in unsafe and unsanitary conditions. The animals lived in a Citra-area single-wide mobile home (16552 NE 45th Court) with their owners: Denise Decker, 44, Norman Lock, 45, and Maydine Baldwin.

After receiving a tip about animals in poor condition at that location, animal control officers responded and observed several dogs with significant hair loss outside the home. The owners granted the officers permission to enter the home after a Marion County Sheriff's Office deputy arrived. Once inside, officers found fecal matter and urine saturat-

ing the floors and furniture.

According to Dr. Martha Zimmerman, DVM, Animal Services' staff veterinarian, most of the dogs are suffering from sarcoptic mange, hookworms, hair loss and heavy flea infestation, most likely from their living conditions and poor air quality. The cats have ear mites, as well as skin and respiratory issues.

The dogs include toy fox terriers, Chihuahuas and Parson Russell terriers that range in age from 1 day to 4 years, in addition to a 10-year-old German shepherd mix. The cats include domestic short hair and Siamese mixes and range in age from 5 weeks to 2 years.

The animals are now housed at the Mar-

ion County Animal Center, where staff is providing medical and nutritional care. The county plans to file a petition for custody of the animals.

KP HOLE PARK DAY USE FEE TO CHANGE JAN. 1

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Dec. 9, 2011) – Effective Jan. 1, 2012, the day use fee at KP Hole Park will change from \$3 to \$5. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Council had recommended the fee change to offset park expenses and assist with managing park capacity. The costs for annual individual and family passes remain unchanged, at \$25 and \$50 respectively.

KP Hole Park is located at 9435 SW 190th Ave. Road in Dunnellon. For more information on this or other county parks, contact Marion County Parks and Recreation at 352-671-8560.

UF/IFAS MARION COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE CAN HELP YOU

"TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR DIABETES"

WHO: UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service

WHAT: Take Charge of Your Diabetes program

WHEN: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. ? Jan. 18 and 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23; March 1, 8 and 15; April 12; May 17 Register by Jan. 12, 2012

WHERE: Marion County Extension Service (2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala) WHY: If you are part of the nearly 9.5 percent of Marion County's adult population that, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has diabetes, don't ignore it – take charge! The best way for people with diabetes to maintain a high

(Continued on Page 11)



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Marion Co. Public Information

(Continued from Page 10)

quality of life is to learn about the disease and develop a healthy living plan. UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service staff and local health professionals are ready to help you by offering the 10-class series, "Take Charge of Your Diabetes." Participants will learn about everything from the Glycemic Index and medication to carbohydrate counting and foot care. The class will give participants the understanding and knowledge to actively control their diabetes and maintain a quality, healthy lifestyle. The \$45 fee covers the 10 class sessions and health screening for each participant; one support person per registrant may attend for free. Participants must register by Jan. 12 by calling 352-671-8400.

BLUE RUN OF DUNNELLON PARK TO UNDERGO CONSTRUCTION

DEC. 5, 2011 – FEB. 6, 2012

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Dec. 1, 2011)

– The River Access project will begin next week at Blue Run of Dunnellon Park (County Road 484 and Rainbow River, Dunnellon). This project will feature a 12-foot wide, universally accessible ramp, which will provide entry and exit into the Rainbow River for paddle craft and tubers.

For public safety, the access area will be closed to visitors during construction. The main parking area and San Jose Boulevard parking area will remain open, however, allowing visitors to access all other park areas. Access to the Rainbow River is available at the Dunnellon boat ramp (U.S. Highway 41, adjacent to City Hall) and at KP Hole Park (9435 SW 190th Ave. Road, Dunnellon).

For more information, call Marion County Parks and Recreation at 352-671-8560.

BELLEVUE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Second Tuesday of the month-- Belleview/ South Marion Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting. -- Breakfast meeting at Cal's Place at 8a.m.--11077 SE 66th Terrace and C-25. For more information please call 352-245-2178 or visit us on Facebook.-

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month- Silver Springs Shores Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Silver Springs Shores Community Center-Learn about ways you can meet new people , have fun and support community programs. For additional information please call 352-687-8608 or visit us on Facebook- the official page.

Second Sunday of the month--Armenian American Cultural Society monthly meeting-- 1 p.m. at the Cultural Society Hall. in Silver Springs Shores--For more 352-information please call 352-245-7755 or visit us on Facebook.

Third Thursday of the month-- Texas Holdem Poker Tournament to benefit the Belleview/ South Marion Chamber of Commerce- 5946 Magnolia Road, Belleview. 7 p.m. start with a \$20 buy in-First time to the event- 500 poker chips free! Bring someone with you and get another 500 poker chips free! For more information please call 352-245-2178.



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smart snacking tips

(Family Features) If you want to lose weight or maintain weight loss this winter, choose smart snacks that will satisfy your taste buds without sabotaging your goals. Low-fat dairy is one great option recommended by the USDA. It's a good source of protein that can help keep you fuller longer while providing calcium and important nutrients.

For tasty snack ideas, try these recipes:

Spinach and Artichoke Dip with Pita Toasts

Serves: 6 (1/2 cup dip plus 6 pita chips per serving)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 5 per serving

Prep time: 18 minutes

Cook time: 33 minutes

Pita Toasts:

64-inch whole wheat pita pockets, cut into sixths

Non-stick olive oil cooking spray

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

Spinach and Artichoke Dip:

9 Weight Watchers Parmesan Peppercorn Wedges, cut into 1-inch pieces

1/2 cup non-fat sour cream

2 ounces Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread, cut into 1-inch pieces



1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
 1 package (10-ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained
 1 can (14-ounces) artichoke hearts, drained, chopped into 1/8-inch pieces
 Preheat oven to 400°F. Arrange pita slices on baking sheet 1/4 inch apart. Spray both sides with cooking spray. Sprinkle tops with kosher salt, pepper.
 Bake 7-8 minutes until golden. Remove from oven; set aside.
 Lower oven heat to 350°F. Spray 8-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

In large bowl, combine Parmesan peppercorn wedges, sour cream, cream cheese, garlic powder, salt and pepper with electric mixer on low until well-blended.

Stir in spinach, artichoke hearts with large spoon. Mix until thoroughly combined.

Pour into pan; bake 25 minutes, until bubbling, lightly browned. Remove from oven. Serve warm or at room temperature with pita toasts.

Baked Mozzarella Sticks with Spicy Tomato Dipping Sauce

Serves: 4 (2 mozzarella sticks plus 1/2 cup sauce per serving)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 3 per serving

Prep time: 12 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Olive oil cooking spray

1 teaspoon olive oil

1 garlic clove, minced

1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon granulated sugar

1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes (optional)

6 tablespoons unseasoned panko or breadcrumbs

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

2 tablespoons enriched flour

2 egg whites, lightly scrambled

4 pieces Weight Watchers Light String Cheese (or Weight Watchers Natural Light

Smoked Mozzarella String Cheese), cut in half

Spray a baking sheet with olive oil cooking spray.

In a medium saucepan, heat olive oil over medium-low heat until just warm, about 1 minute. Add garlic; sauté for 1 minute. Add tomato sauce, salt, sugar, red pepper flakes; stir well. Heat until sauce begins to bubble. Reduce heat to low; simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat.

On a medium plate, combine panko, garlic powder, oregano, salt, pepper.

Place flour on small plate. Coat each stick



in flour. Shake off excess; dip in egg. Dip sticks in panko mixture. Place sticks on baking sheet 2 inches apart. Spray tops with olive oil cooking spray.

Place baking sheet in freezer for 1 hour; refrigerate sauce.

(Continued on Page 13)

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smart snacking tips

(Continued from Page 12)

Preheat oven to 400°F 15 to 20 minutes before serving. Remove baking sheet from freezer; place in oven. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until sticks are just heated through, not melted. Remove from oven.

Remove sauce from refrigerator. Microwave for 1 to 2 minutes until warmed through. Serve with sticks.



Tomato Mozzarella Skewers

Serves: 4 (1 skewer plus 1 tablespoon pesto)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 3 per serving

Prep time: 17 minutes

20 grape tomatoes

4 pieces Weight Watchers Light String

Cheese (or Weight Watchers Natural Light Smoked Mozzarella String Cheese), cut into quarters

1 cup fresh basil plus 4 basil leaves, cut into quarters

1/2 clove garlic

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil

1 tablespoon low-sodium chicken broth

1 tablespoon pine nuts

1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

4 8-inch skewers

Thread tomato onto skewer. Follow with 1 piece of mozzarella cheese, 1/4 piece basil. Repeat pattern until skewer is full, ending with a tomato. Once 4 skewers have been prepared, set aside.

Chop garlic in food processor until minced, about 15 seconds. Add basil, olive oil, chicken broth, pine nuts, Parmesan cheese, salt, pepper. Pulse until all ingredients are finely chopped, about 30 seconds.

Serve each skewer with 1 tablespoon pesto.

Cheesecake Lollipops

Serves: 28 (1 lollipop or square, 1/28th of a 9-inch cake)

Weight Watchers PointsPlus value: 5 per serving

Prep time: 1 hour plus 3 hours refrigera-

tion time and 2 hours freezing time

Cook time: 45 minutes

Cheesecake:

24 ounces Weight Watchers Reduced Fat Cream Cheese Spread, cut into 1-inch pieces

1 cup granulated sugar

3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

3 large eggs

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 teaspoon lemon zest

Ganache:



12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips

3/4 cup half-and-half

Equipment:

28 lollipop or Popsicle sticks

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large mixing bowl, whip cream cheese and sugar until light, fluffy. Add flour, eggs,

vanilla extract, lemon zest. Beat until completely smooth.

Pour mixture into 9-inch square baking pan; spread evenly. Bake 45 minutes or until a knife inserted into the center of the cheesecake comes out clean. Remove from oven; cool completely, approximately 1 hour.

Once cool, cover pan tightly with foil. Refrigerate 3 hours or overnight.

Line baking sheet with wax paper.

Remove cheesecake from refrigerator. Scoop out 28 balls (roughly 2 tablespoons in size) with measuring spoon or small ice cream scoop. Place balls on baking sheet, approximately 1 inch apart. Insert stick firmly in middle of each ball. Freeze 2 hours or overnight.

Just before serving, make ganache. In double boiler or Pyrex bowl placed over pan of steaming, not yet simmering water, heat chocolate chips, half-and-half over low heat, whisking continuously until mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.

Dip lollipops into ganache until 3/4 of each lollipop is covered. Return to baking sheet. Allow to harden. Serve immediately or freeze until ready to serve.

For more tips and recipes, visit www.WeightWatchers.com.

The brand of ingredients used in the nutrition calculation software to calculate the PointsPlus value for these recipes may differ from what is available on the WeightWatchers.com Recipe Builder. This may impact the PointsPlus value.



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