

## Dancing with the Devil

By Tom Loury

This is a letter the Board of County Commissioners recently received from: Freedom from Religion Foundation, PO Box 750 Madison, WI 53701 (Address included in case you would like to write to them)

20 August 2012

Mr. Charlie Stone

Chairman, Marion County Board Commissioners, 601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala, FL 34471

Re: Invocations prior to Marion County Board of Commissioners

Dear Chairman Stone and Board members:

Our National Organization, which works to keep state and church separated has been contacted by tax payers and residents of Marion County who strenuously oppose the practice of prayers at City Council meetings. The Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), has 18,000 members including 800 in Florida.

It is our information and understanding that the Marion County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") includes prayers as a part of its meetings.

Government prayer is unnecessary, inappropriate, and divisive. Calling upon the Board members and citizens to rise and pray (even silently) is coercive, embarrassing and beyond the scope of secular government.

Board members are free to pray privately or to worship on their own time in their own way. They do not need to worship on taxpayers time. The Government should not lend its power and prestige to religion, amounting to a government endorsement that excludes one 1-in-5 American who are not religious. The Board compounds the violation when majority of prayers are sectarian, in this case to Jesus, or a majority of the officiants are of one religion, in this case Christian or Christian clergy. Such prayer creates acrimony, makes minorities feel like political outsiders in their own community, and shows unconstitutional Government preference not just for religion over nonreligion, but Christianity over other faiths.

Citizens of all religions or no religions are compelled to come before you on important civic matters and to participate in important decisions affecting their livelihood, their property, and quality of life. These citizens should not be made to feel offended, excluded, or like political outsiders because the local government they support with their taxes imposes religious ritual at local government meetings. Local government meetings should not be in the business of performing religious rituals, or exhorting all citizens, regardless of beliefs, .....etc

\*\* Publishers note: The letter is three pages long. The first page gives you the

(Continued on Page 8)

## Meet dB Hearing Solutions



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You can visit them on the web at [www.dbhearingolutions.com](http://www.dbhearingolutions.com)

Darryl says "I want you to have the best hearing possible, come see me!"

## Single-Stream Recycle

STOP SEPARATING; SINGLE-STREAM RECYCLING STARTING SEPT. 1

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Aug. 22, 2012) – Glass. Plastic. Tin cans. Newspaper. Aluminum cans. Cardboard. Office paper. If you recycle at any of Marion County's recycling centers, you know those categories represent the different containers you have

to separate your recyclables into each time you visit.

But soon, you can stop separating. Beginning Sept. 1, Marion County Solid Waste will offer single-stream recycling at all 18 of its recycling centers countywide. This means no more separating recyclables – all items can be disposed of in one container.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Tom's Picks

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

August referrals from Tom's Picks include:

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**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS**  
**SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS**  
**IN GOD WE TRUST**

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## Politics at its Worst!

Where do I start? I have heard from hundreds of people that this is the worst politics they have ever seen. But we let it continue and it seems to work. The dirtier they get the more votes they get. The presidential polls show that every day. We need campaign reform. Stop the superpacks.

We have many politicians dancing with the devil. Many claim to be church people, there is a big difference in church people and Christians. There are some politicians that claim to be Christians but when you hear about some of the deeds they have done, you know they are dancing with the devil. They are using the church to gain friends and gain votes. They are shallow Christians and good actors.

The thing I don't understand is why a candidate can do the deeds they do, lie to

win an election. Is it to gain money or power? The other thing I don't understand is if you have 36,000 voters and one candidate wins by 2,000 votes that means 16,000 voters voted for the person that did not win. So now the winner has half the people in the county that don't like him.

Facts were given to Superintendent of schools that was about ethic, some very unethical things were done and so far nothing has happened in that case.

Where has the supervisor of elections been while these ethics have been so horribly abused?

The other thing that was so terribly disappointing was that voters who were uneducated actually thought that triple dipping was a crime. For those of you who don't know



Mark DuShane, Senior Vice President

## ECONOMIC AND MARKET REVIEW



**Information brought to you by Advance Capital Management**

**Bonds and Interest Rates**

What happens to the price or value of a bond when interest rates move up or down? An

inverse (or opposite) relationship exists between the price of a bond and interest rates. As general interest rates go down the value of previously issued bonds goes up and as interest rates rise the value of previously issued bonds goes down.

The reason for this has to do with the cal-

culuation of the bond's yield (the stated interest rate or coupon that the bond pays divided by the current bond price). This can best be explained with an illustration:

Let us assume that XYZ, Inc. has issued a bond for general corporate financing purposes that originally sells for \$1,000 and carry's a coupon (or stated interest rate) of 6%. In this case for every XYZ, Inc. bond that a bondholder owns they will receive \$60 per year in interest payments from XYZ.

Now let's suppose that one year later general interest rates have gone up by 1%. XYZ is also again offering similar bonds to the public as they did the year before except that now they carry a coupon rate of 7%. Obviously the 7% coupon rate is more preferable (all things being equal) than a 6% coupon

rate. So, the XYZ bond with the 6% coupon rate will go down in price to the point where the division of the \$60 coupon into the current price of the bond equals 7%.

Similarly if general interest rates were to go down than the price or value of a previously issued XYZ bond with a higher coupon rate will rise in value. If the bond rises in price relative to its original issue price (usually \$1,000) the bond is said to trade or sell at a premium. In the case of the aforementioned illustration when a bond trades or sells below its original issue price the bond is said to trade at a discount to its original issue price. Of course, there are many factors that go into the pricing of a bond in the general marketplace. Examples include the credit rating of the issuing entity and the length of time remaining until the bond matures or comes due.

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## Single-Stream Recycle

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For a full list of accepted items and recycling center locations, visit [www.marioncountyfl.org/solidwaste.htm](http://www.marioncountyfl.org/solidwaste.htm) <<http://www.marioncountyfl.org/solidwaste.htm>> .

In June, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved an agreement with Waste Pro of Ocala to provide single-stream recycling at county recycling centers.

According to the five-year contract, Waste Pro of Ocala will be responsible for constructing a regional material recovery facility in Marion County as well as for transportation of the recyclables from county recycling centers to the Waste Pro facility. Marion County will receive 55 percent of the revenue from the sale of the recyclable material. This revenue, combined with cost savings due to the new recycling processes, is anticipated to cover the cost of the expanded services.

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marion County currently ranks 10th out of Florida's 67 counties in a statewide ranking of each county's adjusted recycling rate.

"We hope this enhancement of our recycling program will increase Marion's recycling rate and help reduce the amount of materials going into the landfill," said Marion County Solid Waste Director Mike Sims. "Plus, recycling will be easier and less time-consuming for our residents – with no increase in cost to the department or to the taxpayers."

For more information, contact Marion County Solid Waste at 352-671-8465.

# Mark Your Calendar!



## Home and Business Expo

*You are invited to attend the 2012*

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Loury:

Correction:

O.K. O.K. O.K. you want compromise.

Here it is:

When liberals use their scare tactic, firing police, firefighters, and teachers, this is our counter offer:

1. We will trade one police officer for 5 TSA agents.

2. One firefighter for 5 EPA {AGENDA 21} agents.

3. One teacher for 5 OBAMA CZARS.

The price is escalating. We want a bang for our buck.

4. One social Security check for 10 welfare leeches.

5. One Medicare Card for 100 illegal aliens.

6. One Socialist Country for one FREE COUNTRY.

7. We are honest about what we want, and what we are trying to do.

8. What can we offer to get a little transparency from the opposition?

9. We play fair.

10. We could go on all day?

What does the opposition have to offer?

D.I. Larson

Ocala, FL 34481

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AMERICAN PATRIOT'S PRAYER

DEAR GOD:

Today, American patriots are faced with

the greatest challenge ever encountered by a citizenry in the history of mankind. The hard won freedoms given to us by our founding fathers are under siege. Daily, new shackles are being placed upon us by a malevolent government. Our freedom is diminished a little more each passing day.

Our voices are unheeded.

Our pleas are logical.

Our hearts are stout.

Our resolve is unshakable.

In our hour of need give us the courage, fortitude, wisdom, and perseverance to vanquish the forces of evil, who mean to enslave us.

When once again, the planting of the "SEEDS OF HARMONY" will replace the planting of the seeds of hate.

When God and country will, again, be exalted.

Lord please hear and answer our prayers, show us the way, and watch over us. Amen

Ocala Fl Patriot

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To the editor

Guns kill people. WOW! Now there is a news flash. Our stupid ignorant Founding Fathers did not know that fact, when they wrote the 2nd amendment. Too bad they did not have a genius around to enlighten them, or is it a wing-nut?

Does anyone doubt our Founding Fathers did not know what they were doing? That

guns kill people? That was not the reason they passed the 2nd amendment, and any fool knows this.

When one side has a gun, one side rules. When both sides have a gun, both sides have a chance. The Founding Fathers were well read, knowledgeable about revolutions, and revolutionary tactics, and tyrannical governments. They ran away from one. They fought a war to rid themselves of that government. They knew history repeats itself, and they gave us the 2nd amendment to cope with tyranny should it rear its ugly head again. Remember?

Protection from tyrannical government is the reason for the 2nd amendment. There are always some people who will abuse everything. So, does that mean we have to surrender our 2nd amendment right, or do we deal with those who abuse gun use? Get tough with criminals. Stop coddling them. Make them see crime DOES NOT PAY.

Throwing out the 2nd amendment with the bath water is not an answer.

Common sense, common sense? What ever happened to common sense??

D.I. L.

Ocala, FL

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From a Very pist off ER Doctor!

Having spent three weeks in a hospital in Naples, Florida with my wife I couldn't help noticing what was going on in the hospital and I had a lot of time to talk to the doctors and nurses about what I had observed. Below is a commentary from an ER Doctor. Do you think this might be a big reason our

health care system and our social security system are so screwed up?

Do you think this might be a big reason our taxes keep going up? Who do you think these people are going to vote for?

From a Florida ER doctor:

"I live and work in a state overrun with illegals..

They make more money having kids than we earn working full-time. Today I had a 25-year old with 8 kids - that's right 8; all illegal anchor babies and she had the nicest nails, cell phone, hand bag, clothing, etc. She makes about \$1,500 monthly for each; you do the math. I used to say, We are the dumbest nation on earth. Now I must say and sadly admit: WE are the dumbest people on earth (that includes ME) for we elected the idiot ideologues who have passed the bills that allow this. Sorry, but we need a revolution. Vote them all out in 2012.

This is an insult and a kick in the butt to all of us...

If the immigrant is over 65, they can apply for SSI and Medicaid and get more than a woman on Social Security, who worked from 1944 until 2004. She is only getting \$791 per month because she was born in 1924 and there's a 'catch 22.'

It is interesting that the federal government provides a single refugee with a monthly allowance of \$1,890. Each can also obtain an additional \$580 in social assistance, for a total of \$2,470 a month.

This compares to a single pensioner, who after contributing to the growth and devel-

(Continued on Page 5)



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Tom Loury

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES



This election has been the most slanderous and full of evil deeds I have seen in years. Many good people fell victim to the slanderous deeds.

More important Marion County and much of the south

are being subjected to threats from atheists demanding no prayer anywhere public. One of the groups brag they have 800 members in Florida. Marion County can probably muster several hundred thousand Christians so why would we let them control when we pray? What do you think?

Unemployment is edging up a little and the middle class is shrinking. We are being told we did not build our businesses. We are being told that the economy is stronger and revenue is dropping. Let me hear from you, or would anyone like to buy four newspapers cheap? Owner finance!

If business is slow that is the time to advertise, when you can least afford it. But advertising should be something you do even after cutting expenses. Marketing your business is very difficult, I hear business people say all the time we survive by word of

mouth, others say I can't afford to advertise or advertising does not work. If you have a product that people need, advertising works. In an ad give the customer a choice of products and services that you offer. One or two products or services will outshine the rest. When it does, you need to recognize that and build on it. One thing leads to another thing and then to another thing, that's called growth. When people talk to you about your products or services and you don't listen that's called stupidity. When you're talking you can't be listening so try to stop and listen, even if you don't like the answer.

The Ocala.com Ocala Star Banners web-news flash again proves to be non factual. The headline reads "Foe Cleared of anti Porter wrong doing".

1. How can you be cleared if you were never charged?

2. How can you be cleared if you admitted doing the act. Two people admitted to doing the anti Porter Facebooks and the websites, one in Ocala and one in Georgia. The third person and others were never questioned by the detectives. The report put out by the Sheriffs Department did not match the taped interview,, things were left out. Only in Marion County.

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Nationwide!

The following is a comparison of things that make the economy different than it was from Clinton/Bush/Obama:

Drilling permits approval During Clinton era was up 58%

Bush drilling permits were up 116%

Obama drilling permits are down 36%

During Clinton time unemployment was down to 5.21

During the Bush era unemployment was 5.27

In four years Obama has it up 9.36

2008 the national debt was 9 trillion

2012 - 15.566 trillion

During the Clinton era we had 23 million in the ood stamp program

Bush was about the same about 23.3 million

The Obama food stamp program is 39.5 million

According to sources LA is going broke because most of the workers are working for cash and not paying taxes. They're just draining the system. Now Obama wants to give them voting rights.

On the flip side a large number of mexican workers are going home to Mexico because of the recession. There are some towns close to the border that are going broke trying to take care of them. They are asking for aid. We pay for them in this country and now we will probably pay for them in their country.

What say you? tloury@earthlink.net

## Politics at its Worst!

(Continued from Page 1)

what that means; If you work twenty years at your job, retired and worked ten years at another job, retired and you collect two pensions and social security, THAT IS TRIPLE DIPPING! I was lucky enough to hear two of these bright voters discussing triple dipping. One was telling the other that a candidate was caught triple dipping. One said is that illegal, the other said it must be, I read it on a flyer. The flyer was put out and paid for by concerned citizens of Marion County, A SUPER PACK GROUP WHO DOES NOT HAVE TO ANSWER FOR WHAT THEY SAY OR DO! They spent thousands of dol-

lars to print and thousands of dollars to mail out thousands of color brochures to make sure their candidate wins! By the way all that money was spent out of town.

I still say when a politician dances with the devil to win, it's not over on election day. They still have to answer to Voters!

There are four men in political life in Ocala that I know are Christians. There are many more who are I just have not seen their deeds enough to be sure. Forgiving sinners is a twenty four hour a day job and I don't have enough energy for that.

God Help us!

## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for October*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**12am, September 19th**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, September 26th**

## Ocala DownTown

A Product of TomL Publishing LLC

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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MOVIES

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th and 12th, 2012 AT 1:30 PM  
 "THE HELP" STARRING: VIOLA DAVIS, EMMA STONE, BRICE DAVIS HOWARD AND MORE

A 1960S-era Mississippi debutante sends her community into an uproar by conducting a series of probing interviews with the black servants behind some of her community's most prominent families. Skeeter (Emma Stone) has just graduated from college, and she's eager to launch her career as a writer. In a moment of inspiration, Skeeter decides to focus her attention on the black female servants who work in her community. Her first subject is Aibileen (Viola Davis), the devoted housekeeper who has been employed by Skeeter's best friend's family for years. By speaking with Aibileen, Skeeter becomes an object of scorn to the wealthy locals, who view her actions as directly challenging to the established social order. Before long, even more servants are coming forward to tell their stories, and Skeeter discovers that friendship can blossom under the most unlikely of circumstances. RATED PG 13

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH AND 26TH, 2012 AT 1:30 PM

"THE VOW" STARRING: RACHEL McADAMS, CHANNING TATUM, JES-

SICA LANGE, SAM NEILL, WENDY CREWSON, JOE COBDEN AND MORE

A husband endeavors to win back his new bride's heart after she loses her memory in a tragic car accident in this romantic comedy. RATED PG 13

COMING IN OCTOBER "MEN IN BLACK 3" AND "THE ARTIST"

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

### EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

#### SENIOR TRIP: TITANIC EXPERIENCE & FLORIDA MALL

When: Thursday, September 13th, 2012  
 Where: Orlando, Florida  
 Time: Leave 8th Ave. Adult Recreation Center at 9:00 AM Return at 6:00 PM  
 Cost: \$37.00 per person

What: Enjoy your day in Orlando while touring the Titanic Experience and shopping at a Florida Mall.

The tour includes full scale room recreations when you visit Titanic's Grand Staircase, First Class Parlor Suite, Boilers, Captain's Bridge and Promenade Deck. In addition, you will view more than 400 pieces of memorabilia and 100 artifacts recovered from the wreck of the Titanic. After the tour we will journey to the Florida Mall for

lunch and shopping. (Lunch on your own). Limited to 45 participants. Registration required. For more information, please call Grace at 629-8357.

#### DIABETES WORKSHOP

When: Tuesdays, starting September 11th thru October 16th, 2012

Time: 12:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where: Barbara Washington Adult Activity Center

Cost: Free

What: Living Healthy Diabetes will help you learn how to manage symptoms, communicate effectively with your doctor and other health professionals, lessen your frustration, eat healthy, monitor your blood sugar, and get more out of life. This is a six week workshop. Please call 629-8357 to reserve your seat.

When: Friday & Saturday, October 5th and 6th, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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

Cost: Free

What: This two day event will enable individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience a variety of recreation and leisure activities. Discover the latest in equipment, trends & resources designed to encourage participation regardless of age or ability level. For more information, please call Diane at 352-401-3916.

#### OCALA CENTER STAGE BAND RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Tuesdays, 9 AM to 12:00 Noon

Come listen to the Ocala Center Stage Band perform "Big Band Era" music.

#### SPORTSABILITY

### ONE PERSON'S OPINION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### (Continued from Page 3)

opment of America for 40 to 50 years, can only receive a monthly maximum of \$1,012 in old age pension and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

Maybe our pensioners should apply as refugees!

Consider sending this to all your Ameri-

can friends, so we can all be ticked off and maybe get the refugees cut back to \$1,012 and the pensioners up to \$2,470. Then we can enjoy some of the money we were forced to submit to the Government over the last 40 or 50 or 60 years. And not to receive a increase for 2010 or 2011.

Vote them all out of office...

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# CHARLES GORDON

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Florida House of Representatives

## DENNIS K. BAXLEY



A Year of Decision

Ocala, Fla. (8/24/12) – First let me thank the voters for sending Charlie Stone and myself to the Florida House without opposition. This is a humbling expression of support.

With the redistricting map, Marion County will now be home to two Florida House seats which will strengthen our voice in Tallahassee. Also, please let me express my gratitude to the Marion County Commissioners and Administration for providing district office space to our legislative office in the McPherson Complex on SE 25th Avenue. This gracious act provides efficiency in serving our constituents and allows our office to return funds every year to the general fund. Our local officials are providing the best value to the taxpayers with this collaborative policy. Finally, thanks to all the

good candidates and voters who participated in the primary elections which shows how good candidates can increase voter participation.

We must now prepare for the November election by uniting for this vital year of decision. Start now by encouraging and assisting others in registering for this election which will have much to say about the direction of our country.

YOU are the key to this year of decision. It will be a decision of either restoring American principles which built the greatest nation on Earth or the continuation down a path of looking more and more like other redistribution countries who depend more and more on government control and high debt which may collapse the world monetary system.

It is a moral imperative to regain our fiscal sanity or we will be the first generation to give the next generation a diminished future. Please join me in restoring America in this critical year of decision.

Onward & Upward.



## PSC Approves Pipeline Improvement Rider

TALLAHASSEE ~ Acknowledging increased concern about pipeline safety due to aging infrastructure susceptible to corrosion, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved two petitions allowing three Florida natural gas companies to recover their costs for hastening pipeline replacement within 10 years.

“The PSC is committed to working with Florida’s natural gas utilities to maintain a safe and reliable pipeline infrastructure that meets consumers, daily needs,” said PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé. “An added by-product from the utilities, energy infrastructure improvements is an immediate economic development boost in their service territories.”

Peoples Gas System’s (Peoples) Cast Iron/Bare Steel Replacement Rider, approved today, will accelerate the replacement of cast iron and bare steel distribution pipes on its system. Cast iron is subject to corrosion which in turn may lead to cracking if exposed to mechanical pressures such as excavation or heavy road traffic. Pitting can occur in unprotected bare steel distribution pipes, reducing the pipeline’s structural integrity. The initial bill impact for a typical

Peoples, residential customer is \$0.05 per month starting in January 2013.

A joint petition filed by the Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC) and the Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (Chesapeake) received Commission approval for Gas Reliability Infrastructure Programs (GRIPs). GRIPs, a proposed industry program, permits a gas utility to recover the cost of accelerating the replacement of bare steel pipeline with polyethylene (plastic) pipeline. FPUC’s initial bill impact starting in January 2013 is \$0.12 per month for a typical residential customer; Chesapeake’s initial bill impact starting in January 2013 is \$0.37 per month for a typical residential customer.

An annual mechanism to track savings in operations and maintenance expense and depreciation is required for both pipeline improvement programs. The U.S. Department of Transportation has urged natural gas utilities to replace these older facilities as a safety measure.

For additional information, visit [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com). Follow the PSC on Twitter, @floridapsc <<http://www.twitter.com/floridapsc>>.

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## Chris Blair Reflections

Blessed...

Now that the Sheriff's election has come to an end, my family and I reflect back and wonder how we can ever begin to thank those who made this campaign such an amazing experience. In the beginning, when my family and I made the decision that I would run for Sheriff, we had no idea what lied ahead and what was in store for us. The political arena was not an area which we were familiar with at all. We immediately decided to use the colors of red, white, and blue as our campaign colors because they represented unity, bravery, and the American spirit. From that day, we were proud of the decision we made especially when we watched the way that these colors united so many people in this community. My family and I are so honored to have been a part of this journey and we have absolutely no regrets.

If not for this campaign, there are countless wonderful and amazing people that we may never have met as our paths might not have ever crossed. But God brought these wonderful people into our lives and we now have new friendships that will last forever and for this, we are blessed.

The decision to run for office is not just about being a law enforcement officer and working your way through the ranks, it is about what molds you into who you are, what you stand for, and the people that your surround yourself with. I have been blessed in my life in so many ways and so blessed

to have had your support. There is no way that a person could go on this

journey alone. A person must have the support of great people and I had that

since the start of the campaign almost 1 1/2 years ago. Sangi, Jason, Alesa, and I be-

gan this journey together as a family but our family has now grown tremendously.

I had the support of people that I have known and respected for many years such as Fred Latorre, Tommy Bibb, Evon Colchiski, Don Maines, and Don Moreland, and I can never repay them or their families for the sacrifices that they made. All that I can say is THANK YOU for believing in me and for all that they did for both myself and for this community. There were also many friends that I had not seen in many years who stepped up and dedicated themselves to this campaign and I am so grateful to them. There were also many new friends who we met during this campaign that believed in us and were there to the end. To have people willing to contribute to your campaign both with their support as well as financially and to dedicate their precious time to this cause, was truly an honor and a blessing. To all of you who put your lives on hold and were

there for us no matter what, words cannot express our love and appreciation for what you have done.

I would also like to honor those who were there with us at the beginning of the journey and who are now with God; Captain Leroy Strawder, Richard Scionti, Tim Surrency, Lanell Knight, Donald Teuton, Daniel Hunt and Greg Dawson, thank you for believing in me. Special thoughts go out to Christine Blackburn and the Blackburn family and Roberta Johnson and the Johnson family, you will always be a special part of our lives and a reminder to me of why I went into law enforcement in the first place.

I am a firm believer that God has a plan for us and that things in life happen for a reason. My family and I are at peace with the outcome although I feel that with our team, there was nothing that we couldn't have accomplished together. We have to hold our heads high and be proud of what we achieved, we were fighting the Good Old Boy political machine and we came very close without sacrificing our integrity. I can honestly say that I do not feel that we could have done anything differently, we kept the politics out of the Sheriff's Office, we kept our campaign focused on the facts, and we ran a clean race, everything else was God's plan.

To the men and women of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, thank you for what you do each and every day to protect and serve this community and may God continue to bless you and your families and keep you safe. I sincerely regret that I will no longer be able to serve alongside you but you will always be in my mind and in my heart.

Once again, THANK YOU to everyone who supported us throughout this journey, God Bless each and every one of you and your families, and God Bless Marion County.

Chris

## New Crime Stoppers Discount Cards Available

The new 2012-13 Crime Stoppers Discount Cards are now available at various locations around Ocala and Marion County. The cards, featuring discounts at restaurants and other businesses, are free and can be picked up at Ocala, Dunnellon and Belleview police departments, at sheriff's substations and at Soapy's Car Washes.

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## Dancing With The Devil

(Continued from Page 1)

idea of what the other two pages say. It was from Dan Barker and Annie Laurie Gaylor, Co-Presidents of the Americans United for separation of Church and State.. The following is a complaint about prayer prior to the County Commission Meetings and the response from the County Attorneys.

Prayers at County Commission Meetings  
Dear members of the Board of County Commissioners:

We have received a complaint regarding the Board of County Commissioners practice of opening its meetings with Christian prayer. We have reviewed video of the eight meetings held between January 10, 2012, and May 15, 2012. Seven of those eight videos captured the opening prayer. Each time, the prayer was delivered by a member of the County Commission, and at five of the seven meetings the prayer was specifically Christian, referencing the name of Jesus Christ. We write to inform you that your prayer practice is in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and to ask that you bring your prayer practice into constitutional compliance by either ending the practice altogether or by revising your prayer policy to allow only nonsectarian prayer.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that prayers at the opening of legislative sessions are constitutionally permissible only if there is no indication that the prayer opportunity

has been exploited to proselytize or advance any one, or to disparage any other, faith or belief.” Marsh v. Chambers, 463 U.S. 783, 794-95 (1983). The Court later clarified this standard by stating that the ruling in Marsh cannot justify “contemporary legislative prayers that have the effect of affiliating the government with any one specific faith or belief.” Cnty. of Allegheny v. ACLU, 492 U.S. 573, 603 (1989). The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, which has jurisdiction over Florida, adopted this standard in Pelphrey v. Cobb Cnty., 547 F.3d 1263, 1270-72 (11th Cir. 2008).

None of the above decisions, however, offers any shelter for the County Commission’s prayer practice. The prayers given in Marsh were nonsectarian, whereas the County Commissioners are overwhelmingly Christian. See Marsh, 463 U.S. at 793 n.14 (prayergiver had “removed all references to Christ”). And in Pelphrey, while the Eleventh Circuit did not find fault with the fact that the prayers were sectarian; the court did note that the County Commission’s prayer practice had included enough diversity—there were Jewish, Muslim, Baha’i, and Unitarian Universalist prayergivers and prayers—to ensure that the prayer opportunity had not been exploited to proselytize or advance any one faith. Pelphrey, 547 F.3d at 1228, 1277-78. Here, as far as we are aware, no prayers of non-Christian faiths have been given.

Moreover, in Marsh and Pelphrey, the

prayers were given by clergy-persons and directed at the elected officials. See Marsh, 463 U.S. at 784; Pelphrey, 547 F.3d at 1266-67. Courts have held that it is unconstitutional for elected officials to deliver sectarian prayers themselves, because doing so convey a message that the elected officials endorse the specific religious beliefs reflected in the prayers. See Doe v. Indian River Sch. Dist., 653 F.3d 256, 288-90 (3d Cir. 2011); Wynne v. Town of Great Falls, 376 F.3d 292, 301-02 (4th Cir. 2004) (cited with approval in Pelphrey, 547 F.3d at 1272). Here, the County Commissioners give the prayers.

For these reasons, the Commission’s prayer practice unconstitutionally affiliates the County with Christianity. We therefore ask that the prayer be replaced with a moment of silence. The constitutionality of a moment of silence is undisputed; furthermore, a moment of silence is far more inclusive than a prayer, because it allows attendees to pray or not to pray, in accordance with their own conscience. Alternatively, the prayers could be made non-sectarian, bring-

ing them into line with the prayers upheld in Marsh, 463 U.S. at 793 n.14. Finally, the County Commission could change its policy to invite members of the community to offer the invocations, while ensuring that prayer-givers of faiths other than Christianity are allowed the opportunity to present prayers. An injection of diversity into the prayers would demonstrate that the County Commission’s prayer practice is not meant to endorse Christianity, and would bring it into line with the practice that was approved in Pelphrey, 547 F.3d at 1277-78.

\*\*Publishers Note: I believe I headlined this story correctly because denying prayer before a meeting in Marion County Florida is “Dancing With The Devil!” I also believe in Marion County we could muster up 200,000 Christians that would disagree with denying prayer at any meeting!

What do you think? Email letter to the editor [tloury@earthlink.net](mailto:tloury@earthlink.net) and make sure you put your name and phone number so I can call and verify.

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## Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate up slightly over the month, down significantly since July 2011

(OCALA, Fla.) – Workforce Connection’s regional unemployment rate was 10.6 percent in July, up 0.4 percent over the month but down 2.1 percent from one year ago. Out of an expanded labor force of 206,753, there were 21,866 jobless or 4,586 fewer unemployed than this time last year.

The July 2012 unemployment rates, released Friday by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, were 10.5 percent in Marion County, up 0.2 percent over the month; 10.8 percent in Citrus County, up 0.5 percent; and 10.3 percent in Levy County, up 0.5 percent. Florida’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 9.3 percent in July and the United States rate was 8.6 percent.

Workforce Connection CEO Rusty Skinner said that the unemployment data for July again shows expected month-by-month fluctuations of the overall economy. All of Florida’s 67 counties’ unemployment rates declined over the year, while 66 counties’ unemployment rates rose over the month.

“Summer months are traditionally uneven,” Skinner said. “Combined with the uncertainty of our national economy, the sluggish employment response will probably continue through the end of the presidential election cycle.”

When viewed in the long-term, Skinner noted that each county in the region shows job growth.

“Marion shows a growth of 2,700 more

people working from one year ago, Citrus shows 500 more in employment and Levy employment is up by about 160,” Skinner said.

In July, nonagricultural employment in the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area was 89,700, an increase of 0.4 percent or 1,100 jobs over the year.

Seven major industries gained jobs over the year, led by leisure and hospitality and education and health services (+500 jobs each); professional and business services (+200 jobs); and manufacturing, trade, transportation, and utilities, financial activities, and other services (+100 jobs each).

The one industry that lost jobs over the year was mining, logging, and construction (-500 jobs), while information and governmental remained unchanged over the year.

When it comes to gauging economic recovery, both Skinner and DEO’s Rebecca Rust, the state’s chief economist, emphasized that it is important to track the trend, not the monthly blips. The region’s July rate was 2.1 percentage points lower than the year-ago rate of 12.7 percent when there were 25,947 jobless and 3.0 percentage points lower than July 2010 when 26,534 were out of work.

“The change is very minor in terms of the long term,” Rust said. “There needs to be a change in the same direction for at least four months, consecutively, to be a trend.”

Rust cited movements she described as “positive indicators,” including a decline in the number of job losers, and increase

in percentage of those who have left jobs voluntarily as well as those re-entering the labor force.

The increase in job leavers is up from 6.7 percent to 7.1 percent, Rust said, and shows “they are feeling more optimistic, so they’re voluntarily leaving” to shift careers, go back to school, or retire.

Across the region, the labor force grew by 843 to 206,753, the number of unemployed dropped by 461 and the number of those with jobs increased by 69 to 184,887 over the month.

Here is the breakdown for each county:

Citrus County’s labor force decreased by 23 over the month to 55,664, the number of employed fell by 259 to 49,676 and those without jobs increased by 236 to 5,988. One year ago, there were 6,989 unemployed.

Levy County’s labor force increased by 39 to 16,765, employment is down by 38 jobs to 15,044 and the number of unemployed rose by 77 to 1,721. In June 2011, there were 2,084 jobless.

Marion County’s labor force grew by 827 to 134,324, the number with jobs increased by 366 to 120,167 and those unemployed increased by 461 to 14,157. In July 2011, there were 17,379 without jobs.

Marion County’s unemployment rate dropped from 12th to 15th, Citrus County’s fell from 10th to 12th and Levy County

dropped back one place to 18th. The Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) remained the fifth highest among the state’s 23 MSAs, behind Palm Coast with 12.7 percent, Sebastian-Vero Beach with 12.2 percent, Port St. Lucie with 11.7 percent and Lakeland-Winter Haven at 10.6 percent.

Workforce Connection is the local, business-led organization dedicated to connecting qualified workers with local employers in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties through cost-effective, high-quality employment, training and education services in collaboration with business, community, education, economic development and government partners. On average, 36,000 job seekers and 1,500 businesses receive services at no charge each year.

Since November 2011, when Florida’s regional workforce boards began reporting monthly job placements to DEO, Workforce Connection has consistently ranked among the top regions, with 5,240 job placements of which 1,247 or 23.8 percent had been receiving reemployment assistance (unemployment compensation).

To obtain a full copy of the July 2012 unemployment reports or to find out more about upcoming events and services, visit [ww.clmworkforce.com](http://ww.clmworkforce.com) or call 1-800-434-JOBS, ext. 1234.



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Your circulatory system impacts many facets of your health and the way you look and feel. In fact, explains Taub-Dix, heart, brain and eye health - even exercise performance - depend on a healthy circulatory system. But as you age, your blood vessels may become less flexible and less able to expand when needed to keep circulation running smoothly. “Cocoa flavanols are scientifically proven to help support healthy circulation by helping your blood vessels stay flexible and expand as needed, even as you age,” says Taub-Dix. “With daily intake, cocoa flavanols - such as the 250 mg found in the CocoaVia Cocoa Extract Supplement - help oxygen and nutrients reach your organs and tissues, so you look and feel your best today and every day.”

To help keep your circulatory system

healthy, Taub-Dix has found a number of ways to help you be your inner best, including:

Start your day on a healthy note. When you wake in the morning, set a healthy tone for the rest of your day and begin with a wholesome breakfast, such as almond butter mixed in oatmeal with a fruit smoothie or a yogurt parfait to make sure you’re nourishing your body with exactly what it needs. Add even more health benefits by stirring a package of 30-calorie unsweetened or sweetened Dark Chocolate flavored CocoaVia supplement in the oatmeal, smoothie, yogurt, or even your glass of milk or cup of coffee. With 250 mg of cocoa flavanols,

it’s an easy way to have a delicious breakfast and support your cardiovascular health by supporting healthy circulation.

a great way to get your blood flowing, but speak with your doctor about the level of activity best suited for you. When possible, avoid sitting for long periods of time. If you work in an office, make sure to fit in small walks throughout the day - even if that means taking a short 15 to 20 minute walk during your lunch break. Try to get up and move around every half hour or so.

Stay hydrated. Hydration is important for many reasons, but if you’re looking to stick to your goal of exercising daily, you want to make sure your body is properly hydrated. If you’re a soda drinker, consider switching to flavorful options that offer health benefits. For example, add a 20-calorie fruit-flavored CocoaVia packet to your water bottle or iced tea. With two refreshing flavor choices - Summer Citrus and Cran-Raspberry - it’s a flavorful way to stay hydrated while helping support healthy circulation.

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