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Volume 4 Issue 5
May, 2013

Ivy House



Introducing The Ivy House Restaurant located at 917 E Silver Springs Blvd Ocala, FL. The other location is in Williston and is a famous restaurant. People come from miles around to experience the unique menu. They have developed many of their own special recipes and we are lucky to have an Ivy House in Ocala. I'll see you there.

Car Versus Train



Ocala Fire Rescue responded to a train that struck a passenger vehicle. On arrival firefighters found an elderly driver sitting in the vehicle who told officials he did not realize he was on the train tracks. CSX train staff prior to the collision observed tail lights in the distance and were able to apply the brakes on the train preventing significant damage to the passenger vehicle.

SIGNS

Ocala City's Code Enforcement

By Tom Loury

I had the privilege of attending a two day Spring Expo put on by the Main Street Chamber. The expo vendor list was full about 60 strong inside and outside of the building. The evening prior to the event signs went up to direct people to the event, which was held at the India Cultural Hall. The signs were professionally done at great expense and were necessary because most people did not know where the event was.

The doors opened, vendors were happy, they had people to look at their business, explain what they do and show some of their products. Several hours of this then the crowd stopped. I figured maybe lunch break. Then the word went through that the City Code Enforcement took up all the signs. Hmmm WHY?

I called Code enforcement Monday morning to find they took the signs because they were not legal. I asked what is legal only to find out there was no event permit for the local business people, WHY?

According to City Code:

Banners, Flags, Pennants, and people tossing signs around are all allowed and can get a 2 week permit for them. Cardboard signs on stakes or metal framed signs are not allowed. Exemption to this are Yard Sale signs and Realty signs, they are allowed. There may be more exemptions, but Business Expo events for local businesses are not one. I did notice on the square the same day a big Farmers Market event going on and there was no shortage of signs there.

I suggest the City can save money by letting Code Enforcement stay home on weekends and leave the local business people alone. They are clearly over-regulating. With the economy tanking we should commend business people that spend their weekends promoting their business and not asking for handouts!!!!

To you out there that are interested in change attend the city council meetings and voice your opinion. Write me letters and I'll print them. tloury@att.net

The independent businessman/woman does not have a government job and has to use every means to make a living.

Freedom Our Most Precious Heritage

By Tom Loury

Gettysburg Address says it all:

Four score and seven years ago our forefathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Since this was written we have fought many wars losing hundreds of thousands of our countrymen; thousands on one beach landing, most of which were fought on foreign lands. Now there are several new types of wars and it has come to America. It is the war called terror. It has no face, it is designed for terror, death and maiming our people. It is fought with unsophisticated weapons. Pressure cookers, fertilizer explosives designed cheap and placed in crowds of people to create injury and terror. The other type of war is heading into the electronics. Raiding bank accounts, stealing credit card IDs and electronic jamming. The electronic jamming could be the worst because our

missile guidance systems could be in jeopardy. Our power grid, supplying power all over our country, is electronically computer controlled. Business and stock market rely heavily on computer electronics. Our banking systems are electronically computerized controlled.

Say what you will about computers. They have made my life easier, but I'm afraid if I rely too much it could be my ruining.

How much will freedom cost us tomorrow? What do you think?

tloury@att.net



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

Mark DuShane, Senior Vice President

ECONOMIC AND MARKET REVIEW



Information brought to you by Advance Capital Management

1st Quarter 2013 Economic and Market Review

The philosopher and poet Friedrich Nietzsche once said, "And those

who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music." In this still perplexing environment, are

you one that hears the economic and market music or not? Certainly the dichotomy between the two can be enough to drive investors to their breaking point. On the one hand, the economy remains mired in slow growth, high debt and high structural unemployment. On the other hand, the record low interest rates and liquidity programs initiated by the Federal Reserve have allowed investors to take on risk. This has led to very robust returns across just about every stock and bond sector over the past few years. Now that the markets are nearing all-time highs, will the music continue or will investors run for cov-

er at the first sign of trouble?

The answer is a bit elusive and only time will tell. While there are many positive economic indicators which point to a continued strengthening of the economy, many hurdles remain that could trip up this tepid recovery. On the positive side, the economic drag from the housing market appears to be over. New single family home sales were up 29 percent and existing single family home sales were up 8.5 percent year-over-year in January 2013. The growth in payrolls continues to trend higher with a reading of 191,000 in February and the unemployment rate fell to 7.7 percent. As a result, retail sales set a new record of \$421 billion in February. Also, the fourth quarter 2012 S&P earnings growth rate of 7.7 percent is more than double the rate analysts expected at the beginning of earnings season. Finally, the Federal Reserve reiterated their commitment to keep interest rates at multi-decade lows which should continue to fuel debt refinancing and spending by businesses and consumers.

On the negative side, one of the main culprits is political uncertainty. Although the economy will always face unforeseeable geopolitical headwinds, the continued appetite among policymakers for high-stakes political brinkmanship, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, continues to present a significant risk. The last minute agreement on the fiscal cliff was largely seen as preventing a plunge over the cliff, but it came at a price. Taxes increased for more than three quarters of U.S. households as the Social Security payroll tax holiday expired and income tax-

es increased on higher earners. Furthermore, there remains considerable uncertainty surrounding the impact of the new healthcare law and the associated costs to consumers and businesses. Finally, if not contained soon, the massive U.S. deficits and corresponding debt obligations will likely lead to higher inflation and persistently below average economic growth.

Investors chose to largely ignore most of these economic shortcomings and instead focused more on the positive market forces, including a very accommodative Federal Reserve and a general absence of political drama since December. In addition, economic growth was positive and corporations posted solid growth in earnings. This helped push several of the major stock market indices toward their all-time highs. The S&P 500 Index is now at the level it was at the prior market peaks in 2000 and 2007. For some investors, this signals a new bull market and still higher trending stock prices. Other investors have seen this movie before and it doesn't end well.

What's next? Investing has always been about fundamentals, valuation and alternatives. The Federal Reserve's low interest rate policy has led to better, not great, economic growth, marginally improving employment, growing corporate earnings and much higher prices for financial assets. There is a limit to how far the Federal Reserve can "push" this agenda on the economy and capital markets. Since the depths of the credit crisis, they have expanded their balance sheet by about

(Continued on Page 3)

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Thomas L. Croley, M.D.

CARING FOR YOUR EYES



“Making a Clear Choice – Consider Visual Freedom”

Approximately 20 million Americans aged 40 and over have cataracts. They are the leading cause of reversible blindness today.

Cataracts (the natural lens of your eye) usually progress slowly and have little effect on vision at first but, as they grow, so do the visual difficulties. Progression of cataracts may be noticed as blurring vision, sensitivity to light and glare, difficulty in identifying color differences, needing frequent changes in glasses prescription, or feeling like your glasses are always dirty. Cataracts usually develop as part of the natural aging process, but may also result from trauma, systemic diseases such as diabetes and certain medication.

One of the challenges of modern cataract surgery is making the best choice for each patient in order to meet their individual needs. Technological advancements have allowed us to offer patients more choices

when it comes to their vision and lifestyle. The decision to have cataract surgery with today’s technology provides you with the opportunity to have a full range of vision, minimizing or possibly even eliminating your dependency on glasses for distance as well as near. When a cataract is removed an intraocular lens is used to replace the powerful natural lens (the cataract). Intraocular lenses (IOLs) have been around since the mid 1960s and over 14.2 million cataract and lens implant procedures are now performed each year.

Patients may now be a part of choosing the type of lens that is used. Until recently, only monofocal intraocular lenses were used – meaning it provided vision only at one distance (usually far) and most patients needed glasses for up close vision. Monofocal IOLs can also be used for mono vision (one eye for near and one eye for distance). Some people are able to tolerate this difference and the decrease in depth perception, others cannot adjust to this. Multifocal IOLs are designed with multiple powers so you can see well at a variety of distances. It allows most people to see well anywhere, be it near, mid-distance, or near.

Before making a decision, a comprehensive examination must be done to make sure you are a safe, healthy candidate for cataract surgery. Once you and your doctor have decided to proceed with cataract surgery; risks, benefits and available treatments should be discussed in detail. Benefits of different IOL options should also be discussed for your best vision outcome; lens choice is not solely up to the surgeon. Multifocal IOLs are an exciting advancement, but not everyone may be a good candidate. A patient’s particular needs and lifestyle must be considered in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome. A partnership between the surgeon and the

patient will not only ensure that you are a safe, healthy candidate, but it will enable the patient to make an informed decision before they proceed with surgery. Annual eye exams can detect early problems and provide prompt treatment to help keep your eyes healthy for a lifetime of good vision.

To set up an appointment or for more information feel free to contact us at 352-237-8400 or 800-521-6028. You can also visit us on the web at www.centralfloridaeye.com.

Thomas L. Croley, M.D. is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist and Director of Central Florida Eye Institute

Mark DuShane, Senior Vice President

ECONOMIC AND MARKET REVIEW

(Continued from Page 2)

\$2-3 trillion through various asset purchase programs and have essentially been the major buyer of Treasury and mortgage-backed bonds. This has created an “artificial” stimulus in the financial system.

Like it or not, this accommodative environment is not expected to change any time soon. Until the Fed signals a shift in their policy, the investing alternatives to risk assets are not that appealing for most investors. Very safe assets such as cash or bank CDs earn less than 1 percent and the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond is under 2 percent, with limited price appreciation potential. In contrast, the yield on the S&P

500 Index is around 2.1 percent and the valuation is currently below its historical long-term average. Stocks appear to offer the better long-term alternative, but it comes with higher volatility as investors have witnessed over the past decade. Only time will tell if the market’s music keeps playing and stocks head higher, or if the market is headed for a steep sell-off which occurred after the prior two market peaks. After the stellar performance of equities in the first quarter, we expect a pull-back at some point in the near future. However, given the environment, we are mildly optimistic that equity prices could trend a bit higher toward year end. In bonds,

(Continued on Page 5)

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THE BROWN BROTHERS - 5:30 - 6:15

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MAC ARNOLD AND PLATE FULL O' BLUES - 8:00 - 9:00

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Clean Air

A lot of you will remember when we stopped using leaded gas. Since that date the air we breathe has gotten better. Actually, there is a study out there somewhere

saying that our air has improved. So what is the big push to stop using gas? The gas can be improved even more. The coal power

plants have been improved and they have invented a mist that they spray in the smoke stack that cuts omissions considerably. We were already making improvements before Obama got in office. The environment control will bankrupt our country.

In 1910 men's average age was 47 years.

Not many homes had a bathtub. A few phones were connected to a party line that you shared with other families. Owning a car was unusual. The average wage was 22 cents per hour. Most of the births happened at home. The Doctors had no college

education; instead, they attended a medical school. Women only washed their hair once a month. The five leading causes of death were: Pneumonia and Influenza, Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, Heart Disease, Stroke. Our flag had 45 stars.

Population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30! There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day. There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.! Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school. Now compare all of this with today and think about it.

OIL OIL OIL Everywhere and no one is pumping. The U. S. Geological Service issued a report in April 2008 that only scientists and oil men knew was coming.

A revised report on how much oil was in this area of the western 2/3 of North Dakota, western South Dakota, and extreme eastern Montana.

Bakken is the largest domestic oil discov-

ery since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay, and has the potential to eliminate all American dependence on foreign oil. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates it at 503 billion barrels. Even if just 10% of the oil is recoverable (5 billion barrels), at \$107 a barrel, we're looking at a resource base worth more than \$5.3 trillion. How many trillions in debt are we??

Retrieving this only became possible when we learned how to drill horizontal wells.

GUN CONTROL In Australia

Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort and expense was expended in 'successfully' ridding Australian society of guns....'

The Australian experience speaks for itself. Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws affect only the law-abiding citizens.

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for June

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
 12am, May 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
 12am, May 29th

Ocala DownTown

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From the Office of
THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF

The Marion County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Florida Sheriff's Task Force, concluded a five week operation aimed at protecting youth in Florida. Operation Dry Spring focused on preventing underage youth from purchasing and using alcohol, tobacco and various forms of synthetic drugs, especially during the spring break season. From March 4 to April 7, the Marion County Sheriff's Office reported 23 total arrests (5 for underage alcohol sales, 5 for underage tobacco sales, 5 for synthetic drug possession, 2 for possession of alcohol by a person under 21 years of age, 3 for possession of tobacco products under 18 years of age, and 3 other youth violations).

It is the policy of the Marion County Sheriff's Office to protect the community from sexual predators and sexual offenders in accordance with state law and regulations. All sexual predators and sexual offenders must notify FDLE, or the Sheriff, where they are to reside, within 48 hours of relocation to another state. If a convicted sexual predator

or sexual offender does not meet the requirements of the law, that suspect is arrested. In the early days of April, we arrested nine (9) sexual offenders and sexual predators who did not meet the requirements of the law.

Members of the Fugitive Apprehension Unit arrested a 46 year old Ocala woman, who was the last suspect captured from "Operation Blue Forest." The operation called refers to a large pill trafficking organization located in the area of the Ocala National Forest, and the street name "blue" (the Oxycodone pill), which typically sells illegally for \$15 to \$25 a pill.

A 26 year old of women from Summerfield was arrested for Possession of oxycodone; Tampering with evidence; and DUI in the presence of children under 18. The Marion County Sheriff's Office received a call about a drunk driver at a convenience store. A witness could smell the alcohol and could see three small children in the back seat of the car. The witness was able to get the car keys. A Marion County Sheriff's Of-

fice sergeant conducted field sobriety exercises, all of which she failed. The ages of the three children: 9 years old, 6 years old and

six months old. While searching the suspect, the deputies found oxycodone tablets. Later, the suspect blew a .21 on the breathalyzer.

Mark DuShane, Senior Vice President
ECONOMIC AND MARKET REVIEW

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we continue to expect returns that generally correspond with their coupon rate.

Article was written by Chris Kostiz, President of Advance Capital Management. Advance Capital has been in business since 1986 and provides financial planning and investment advice to over 5,000 brokerage and investment advisory clients, who have entrusted our firm with close to \$2 billion of their assets. Please join us at our next seminar call 352-259-1154 to inquire.

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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES MAY 2013

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH AND 15TH, 2013 AT 1:30 PM

“FLIGHT” STARRING: DENZEL WASHINGTON, JOHN GOODMAN, DON CHEADIE, BRIAN GERAGHTY AND OTHERS

A pilot with a substance-abuse problem Whip (Washington) has to land crippled airliner in this drama for Paramount Pictures. RATED R

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH AND 29TH, 2013 AT 1:30 PM

“SKYFALL” STARRING: DANIEL

CRAIG, NAOMIE HARRIS, HELEN McCORRY, JUDI DENCH, BEN WHISHAW AND OTHERS

007 (Daniel Craig) becomes M’s only ally as M16 comes under attack, and a mysterious new villain emerges with a diabolical plan. James Bond’s latest mission has gone horribly awry, resulting in the exposure of several undercover agents, and an all-out attack on M16. Meanwhile as M (Judi Dench) plans to relocate the agency, emerging Chairman of the Intelligence Committee (Ralph Fiennes) raises concerns about her competence while attempting to usurp her

position, and Q (Ben Whishaw) becomes a cruel ally. Now the only person who can restore M,s reputation is 007. Operating in the dark with only field agent Eve (Naomie Harris) to guide him, the world’s top secret agent works to root out an enigmatic criminal mastermind named Silva (Javier Bardem) as a major storm brews on the horizon. RATED PG13

COMING IN JUNE “SAFE HAVEN” AND “OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL”

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.

COMING EVENTS FOR MAY/JUNE 2013

NEW PROGRAM: JAZZERCISE

When: Every Thursday starting May 2nd, 2013

Where: Barbara Washington Adult Recreation Center

Time: 10:00 to 11:00 AM

Cost: Free

What: Come out and loosen up those joints to our Jazzercise class. Class is dance-based group fitness program. A 60 minute Jazzercise class featuring a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga and Latin-style movements set to popular music. Limited to 15 persons per class. For more information, call Grace at 629-8357.

SENIOR TRIP: WEBSTER FLEA MARKET

When: Monday, May 20th, 2013

Where: Webster, Florida

Time: Leave 8th Avenue Adult Recreation Center at 8:00 AM Return 5:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00 per person

What: Whether you’re looking for vegetables, fruit, baked goods, tools, clothes, perfume, etc. Venders come from near and far. Wear comfortable shoes. Lunch on your own For more information, please call Grace at 629-8357.

AGELESS AQUA

When: Starting Fridays, June 7th thru August 30th, 2013 (class will not meet on July 5th)

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

Time: 9:45AM to 10:45AM

Cost: \$30.00

What: Ageless Aqua is a water fitness class active for seniors. It focuses on enhancing movement, strengthening muscles and increasing your range of motion. Music provides the backdrop for an enjoyable class that is designed to get you moving. Modification will be demonstrated for all fitness levels. For more information call Grace at 629-8357. Prepaid registration required.

AQUASIZE (AGES 18+)

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 18th, 20th, 25th and 27th Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Cost: \$30.00 per person for 8 sessions

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

What: This class is fore active adults and focuses on enhancing movement strength-

(Continued on Page 10)

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To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation are **Moving Forward!** and have unified to create the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP).

The CEP will serve as the central resource for all businesses in Marion County: new, relocating, existing, large, small and budding entrepreneurs!

The forward momentum of this vibrant organization will focus on economic growth while maintaining the beauty and quality of life in Ocala and Marion County.

We invite you to get acquainted at a complimentary, no-obligation

“GET GOING! New Partner Orientation”

This 60-minute overview is a casual format for you to learn more about the CEP and how partnership in this progressive organization will provide you with additional resources, connections, and advocacy to help in YOUR business development and growth initiatives.

For more information and the date of the next session, please contact:
Felecia Prather at 352-629-8051 or felecia@ocalacc.com

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Florida House of Representatives

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Florida Finds the Right Choice with Health Choice Plus

As we enter the final few weeks of the 2013 Legislative Session, some issues have been resolved and others have evolved.

As we discussed last month, a pivotal discussion taking place in the Capitol this year was the Legislature's decision regarding the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. After careful consideration, the Legislature determined that expanding an already weak program to over a million new enrollees was not in the best in-

terest of Floridians. Since that decision, we have been working continuously to search for alternatives that more appropriately address the healthcare needs of the uninsured in Florida.

House Speaker Will Weatherford and House Health and Human Services Chairman Richard Corcoran have crafted an alternative to replace the Obamacare Medicaid expansion with a 100-percent state-funded program to give low-income Floridians an opportunity to purchase private health coverage. "The Florida House has developed a plan that will fit the needs of Floridians, not the requirements of Washington," said Speaker Weatherford in a statement.

Under the new Florida House proposal, parents below the poverty line who didn't already qualify for Medicaid would get

\$2,000 a year deposited into a health savings account called a CARE (Contribution Amount for Reasonable Expenditures) account, in addition to a required individual contribution of \$25 per month. Instead of increasing government dependency and discouraging personal responsibility by simply expanding Medicaid, this alternative gives the needy families in Florida a "hand up" to private, sustainable health coverage.

The Florida House estimates that this proposal will cost \$237 million a year, assuming that 80 percent of eligible Floridians

enroll. In contrast, the Obamacare Medicaid expansion would cost Florida's taxpayers more than \$1.3 billion a year once federal funding was removed. This proposal is a great solution for all of Florida's taxpayers and those in need as we allow individuals to regain control of their own health dollars.

In an article on Forbes.com titled, Florida's Innovative, Consumer-Driven Replacement for Obamacare's Medicaid Expansion, Avik Roy wrote, "It's exactly what you'd want a subsidized, free-market-based system to look like."

DCF Recognized as PSC Helping Hand for April

TALLAHASSEE – Florida's Public Service Commission (PSC) today recognized the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) as a PSC Helping Hand. Partnerships are essential to raise public

awareness, and the Commission appreciates DCF's assistance in helping Florida's low-income residents subscribe to the Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) telephone discount program.

"Through our partnership, families learn about Lifeline benefits when signing up for certain public assistance programs through DCF," said PSC Chairman Ronald A. Brisé. "These families are looking for ways to stretch their income, and Lifeline provides a much needed monthly discount on telephone bills. Lifeline also keeps residents connected to their families, emergency and community services, and job opportunities."

"For many years, DCF has helped us get Lifeline to those needing it most, and I am pleased to recognize the agency and DCF Secretary David Wilkins as the PSC Helping Hand for April," Chairman Brisé continued.

During two PSC workshops held last year with state agencies and social service representatives from across Florida, the Commission helped organizations connect to share resources and more effectively serve their clientele. To continue the workshops' success and recognize positive working relationships, each month this year the PSC is acknowledging a partner—a PSC Helping Hand—who has assisted the Commission's outreach efforts.

"We are honored to be named a PSC Helping Hand," said Secretary Wilkins. "Every day we work hard to help families under stress. We know how important having a telephone is for families to feel safe and connected. Parents may need to call a child's teacher, talk to a doctor if someone is sick, or just reach out to a friend or family member for advice or to ask for a ride. Having a phone makes it easier to do the small but essential things it takes to maintain a strong and healthy family."

Look for the PSC Helping Hand web page, recognizing outreach partners throughout 2013, under Hot Topics on the PSC's homepage, www.floridapsc.com.

For more information on Lifeline Assistance, visit www.floridapsc.com.

Follow the PSC on Twitter, @floridapsc.



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The 2nd Main Street Chamber Spring Expo



Audibel Hearing

The Spring Expo was put on by Donna Miller, MSC Director and, of course, many volunteers. Pictured are a few of the vendors attending talking to people and explaining what services they offer. Food was abundant and excellent. Doors prizes were given out every hour and WOCA was doing live

remotes from the Expo. Joe Martone also DJ'd and had the vendors dancing in the aisle at one point. They were a happy group with great attitudes. Saturday evening there was a tasting of the restaurants and after you could listen to the twilight Jazz sounds. Don't miss next year.



DB Hearing



Daniel Hightower, Attorney



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Vernon Freeman Tax Problems



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Is there an Electric Car in your future?

Of the alternative technologies currently available in the automotive world, electricity seems to be the only one currently available that works for the average person. The media experts would have us believe that electric cars are not viable because of range limitations, lack of charging infrastructure, and small non-family friendly sized vehicles. It is time to rethink these limitations, I have just taken delivery of a new car that is American made, all electric, and has overcome many of the typical electric car complaints of range and charge time.

Tesla Motors Co., an American automobile manufacturer designing and producing

the cars in Palo Alto, California, has created a full sized, 5 passenger sedan that has to be seen and driven to be believed. The car, named Model S, rivals Mercedes, BMW, Lincoln, and Cadillac for passenger comfort and convenience. The driver can customize the driving experience to suit his/her driving preferences. Steering can be adjusted from Corvette like to limousine comfort; suspension is fully adjustable for ride height and feel; and acceleration is unparalleled. The editors of Motor Trend Magazine were impressed enough with the car to name it the "2013 Motor Trend Car of the Year", one of the most prestigious awards an auto manu-

facturer can receive.

Tesla offers three versions of the Model S based on different battery configurations; a 60KWh model has a range of 230 miles with the batteries guaranteed for 8 years or 125,000 miles, an 85 KWh model that has a range of 300 miles with the batteries guaranteed for 8 years and unlimited miles, and a high performance model with the 85 KWh battery pack that is faster than the base model and has a sportier suspension package in addition to other enhancements.


As you approach the car carrying the key fob, the doors unlock, interior lights light, the car turns "on" and everything comes on line ready for you to drive. Seats, mirrors, and steering wheel adjustments all return to the driver's pre-set parameters. Those that have a smart phone can turn on the AC and adjust the interior temperature remotely so the car is comfortable as soon as you enter. There is even an App that shows the location of every charging station available and will plot a route on the GPS with driving distances between charging stations and voltages available.

For those worried that Tesla may follow the path of many other start-up automobile companies that have failed, that thought can

be put to rest. Tesla has paid back the government loan that helped get the company off the ground 5 years early. It has delivered vehicles since July 2006 and has accumulated over 10 million miles on the cars already delivered. To date, over 6,000 Model S sedans have been delivered and are being produced at the rate of over 400 per month. Later this year the Model X a four door SUV will debut. In addition, Tesla has signed deals with Mercedes Benz to provide the drive train assemblies for the electric Smart Car and Mercedes A-class, and with Toyota to provide the drive assembly for the new electric RAV-4 EV.

Would it be a car for you? That depends, if you are like me and drive less than 100 miles a day and a long trip may be to Ocala, Orlando, or Tampa this car could be for you. Based on comparisons with other sport sedans the Tesla is estimated to save the average driver up to \$8,000.00 in gasoline over five years.

While I do have another vehicle, unless I plan on an out-of-state trip I drive the Tesla. Comfortable, quiet, and friendly to the environment, it satisfies all my daily driving needs.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 6)

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear T. Loury:
STOP! STOP!STOP!

The Ludicrous accusation that the people who do not like the president, do so because he is black. Stupid, maybe, Black no.

HOGWASH.

Perhaps you might like to see my list of 100 reasons., why the president has no credence. The word black is no where to be found. I am supporting Ben Carson for president. An intelligent man\ . Not a creature who flew out of his mother's womb with the"Communist Manifesto" STUFFED IN HIS MOUTH.

My take is that the pro president people are: USEFUL IDIOTS. This is infinitely more PC than the false assumption made

about those who dislike the president's agenda.

That is the CRUX, his AGENDA., Not his color. You will not get away with that old cliché any longer.

Do not let me hear that accusation again. It is totally false. It is indicative of the mental capocacity of the pro president supporters. Just because you make an accusation does not make it true. WE KNOW OUR REASONS, not you.

STOP it right now. Maybe you have such thoughts in your mind, not us. He could be pink, green, purple, and we still would not like his agenda.

D.I. Larson

Dear Mr. President

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On your March 29th visit to Miami, you highlighted the importance of transportation services to jobs and our nation's economy; yet, today the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will begin to furlough 10 percent of the nation's air controllers because of sequestration.

These furloughs will have a devastating impact on Florida families by creating unnecessary delays that will impact Florida

airports. According to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), with Florida airports accommodating more than 142 million passengers annually, we would experience a direct economic output reduction of \$19 million annually, or \$1.6 million per month. Florida communities will be disproportionately impacted by these furloughs as we are the only state in the nation with four large hub airports, including Orlando International, Tampa International, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International and Miami International. Moreover, these furloughs would create a ripple effect causing additional delays at other hub airports such as Jacksonville International, Southwest Florida International and Palm Beach International. These delays will cost time and resources, hinder domestic and international commerce, and undoubtedly have long term consequences for Florida's tourism industry, which all impact Florida families.

Equally disturbing is that the \$637 million in reductions that the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) claims requires furloughs, could be addressed with common sense budgeting. As the Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure pointed out, the FAA's budget has increased by 100 percent in less than two decades, and the FAA has \$2.7 billion in non-personnel spending that could be utilized to help mitigate impacts to critical personnel. Once again, this is another example of the federal government using a meat cleaver, when they should be using a scalpel to reduce government spending.

These impacts come while Florida's economy is on the rebound:

- More than 320,000 private sector jobs were created over the past two years, and Florida's unemployment rate is currently below the national average at 7.5 percent;
- VISIT FLORIDA anticipates 2012 was a record year for tourism spending with \$71.8 billion spent by visitors – a 6.8 percent increase since 2011; and
- VISIT FLORIDA anticipates 2012 was a record year for tourism with 89.3 visitors traveling to Florida in 2012 – an increase of 2.3 percent over 2011.

The decisions by the FAA are a hindrance to our continued economic growth and job creation. We continue to ask you to address the impacts of sequestration on Florida families, and work with Congress to make common-sense budget decisions, as we do at the state level to protect critical resources while ensuring we live within our means.

I urge you to quickly take the steps necessary to avoid these furloughs and impacts on critical services. Florida families have done their job; it's time our federal leaders do theirs.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
Governor

cc: Secretary Ray LaHood

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Governor Rick Scott

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

GOVERNOR SCOTT ANNOUNCES FLORIDA'S NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE CAMP WINNERS

Tallahassee, Fl. - Governor Rick Scott announced that Laurie Jean Scott from Martin County and Delaney Rose Ahrens from Hernando County have been selected as the two most promising young scientific leaders in Florida's 2013 high school graduating class. At the invitation of West Virginia Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, they will serve as Florida's ambassadors at the 50th annual National Youth Science Camp (NYSC) in Green Bank, West Virginia. Lachonda Marie

Lacey from Sumter County and Tessa Marie Voorhees from Seminole County have been selected as alternates.

Governor Scott said, "Thanks to our great teachers, Florida students are among the best in the world. I had the opportunity to attend Florida's State Science Fair in Lakeland, and saw firsthand how advanced Florida's students are in STEM education. Laurie and Delaney were selected as the most promising scientific leaders in Florida, and they'll serve as great ambassadors for the Sunshine State in West Virginia."

Laurie Jean Scott is a senior in the In-

ternational Baccalaureate program at South Fork High School in Stuart, and intends to major in pre-medicine. Recently, Laurie presented research on whitefly DNA analysis at the State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland. Laurie is involved in the National Honor Society, Envirothon, Varsity cross country, track, and soccer, and is also a youth leader for her church youth group and participates in community service projects.

Delaney Rose Ahrens is a senior at Hernando High School in Brooksville. She will attend Purdue University next fall and will study pharmaceutical sciences. Delaney also presented her research at the State Science and Engineering Fair and has been very active in the local, state, and national 4-H and Future Farmers of America. She is involved with the National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa, soccer, and participates in community service projects.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Tony Bennett said, "Student achievement in STEM subjects is vital to success in up-and-coming high-skill, high-wage careers. I applaud these talented young ladies on their nominations and am confident they will represent the Sunshine State well at the National Youth Science Camp."

Established in 1963 as a part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, the NYSC is an annual summer forum where two delegates representing each state exchange ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from academic and corporate worlds. Scientists from across the United States who work on some of the most provocative topics

in science today—fractal geometry, the human genome project, global climate change, the history of the universe, the fate of our rain forests and robotics—present lectures and hands-on research projects.

####

Orlando, FL - Governor Rick Scott announced WWE will open its first ever state-of-the-art Global Performance Center in Central Florida, creating nearly 100 jobs for Florida families. The WWE Performance Center, scheduled to open in Summer 2013, will serve as the new home to WWE's talent developmental system, recently re-branded NXT® and will house seven training rings, a world-class gym and cutting-edge edit and production facilities.

####

GOV. SCOTT STATEMENT ON HOUSE PASSAGE OF FLORIDA UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott released the following statement on the House passage of HB 759:

"Today, in passing HB 759, the Florida House took a major step in protecting the life of mothers and the unborn. I consider every life precious and worth protecting, and this bill helps make sure those who kill or harm an unborn baby are held accountable for taking or injuring an innocent life. I would like to recognize the efforts of Speaker Weatherford, Representative Larry Ahern and Representative Jamie Grant for their leadership."

HB 759, creates the "Florida Unborn Vic- (Continued on Page 13)

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TUNE IN

Governor Rick Scott
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 12)

tims of Violence Act,” which specifies that if a person commits a crime that causes the death of or bodily injury to, an unborn child, that person commits a separate offense in addition to that against the mother. The bill does not require proof that the person committing the offense had knowledge or should have had knowledge that the mother was pregnant, nor does it require the person to have intended to cause the death of or bodily injury to the unborn child.

###

Gulf Coast Governors Call on Congress to Give Management Control to States for Red Snapper Fishery

Tallahassee – Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Texas Governor Rick Perry, Florida Governor Rick Scott and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant are calling on Congress to allow the states to take control over management of the red snapper fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. In a letter to Congressional leadership, the governors declared federal fisheries management “irretrievably” and seek passage of legislation that would reverse a situation that is negatively impacting the coastal economies and citizens of the Gulf Coast.

“After three decades under ineffective federal management, our citizens are left with a 9-day season for this iconic fish, and that is just an unacceptable outcome. Our

own Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has worked constructively with user groups like the Coastal Conservation Association and shown how proper management can foster our wildlife resources to be vibrant economic engines for Louisiana,” Governor Jindal said. “We should not have to settle for over-arching, sub-par management of these resources by the federal government. The Gulf states have all proven they can do a far better job not only creating healthy fisheries, but providing greater access to them for our citizens. We are calling on Congress to give us the opportunity to do so.”

Governor Scott said, “As one of the top fishing destinations in the world, no one understands Florida fisheries better than state and local communities. The current unilateral, regulatory framework administered by the federal government for Red Snapper lacks flexibility and has undermined the expertise of our state fishery officials and local fishing communities. State officials, working in partnership with local communities are far better suited for protecting Red Snapper, while providing local economies with reasonable standards that allow families to pursue jobs in Florida’s bountiful waters.”

Governor Perry said, “Texas has proven the ability to manage and improve the health of fisheries in the Western Gulf, including red snapper. Establishing state-based management provides a pragmatic approach to

regional management of this important resource.”

The letter to U.S. House and Senate leadership, signed by the governors’ states, “With a stock that is recovering steadily, our recreational anglers are being allowed to fish less and less, and there is no hint of willingness from NOAA Fisheries to deviate from this present, unsatisfactory course. As governors of Gulf states, we believe this confusing management is just the latest evidence of a federal management system that is irretrievably broken. We seek to establish a better fishery management approach for Gulf red snapper.”

Such an approach could be modeled after the highly successful Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act on the East Coast, and would establish a coordinated Gulf states partnership for red snapper management. The governors’ letter points out that, “State-based fishery management has proven to be far more effective, and has engineered some of the greatest marine conservation victories in the country, including red drum, speckled trout, snook and striped bass. It is in the national interest to implement procedures and measures to provide for effective inter-jurisdictional Gulf coastal state conservation and management of this species.”

Full Letter Below

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell, and Leader Pelosi:

The Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery has a historic and significant economic benefit to the Gulf states and the nation. How-

ever, federal management conflicts impacting both the commercial and recreational sectors have created a situation that is negatively impacting the coastal economies and citizens of our states.

In 2013, NOAA Fisheries has declared that recreational anglers in Texas will have a 12-day snapper season in federal waters, nine days in Louisiana, 28 days in Mississippi and Alabama, and 21 days in Florida. With a stock that is recovering steadily, our recreational anglers are being allowed to fish less and less, and there is no hint of willingness from NOAA Fisheries to deviate from this present, unsatisfactory course. As governors of Gulf states, we believe this confusing management is just the latest evidence of a federal management system that is irretrievably broken.

We seek to establish a better fishery management approach for Gulf red snapper based on effective interstate management measures coordinated by the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). Modeled after the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, we believe a coordinated Gulf states partnership for red snapper management would be more capable of delivering a robust fishery that is more accessible for the citizens of our states. State-based fishery management has proven to be far more effective, and has engineered some of the greatest marine conservation victories in the country, including red drum, speckled trout, snook and striped bass. It is in the national interest to implement procedures and measures to provide

(Continued on Page 14)

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Unemployment drops below 8%

Ocala MSA leads Florida metros with highest job-growth rate

(OCALA, Fla.) – The jobless rate in March for Workforce Connection’s Citrus, Levy and Marion counties region was 7.8 percent, down 0.7 percent over the month and 2.4 percent lower than the same time last year.

The unemployment rate for the region is the lowest since June 2008 when it was 7.7 percent.

For the fourth consecutive month, the Ocala/Marion County metropolitan area led the state with the fastest job-growth rate at 3.3 percent, with 3,000 new jobs over the year. Florida’s job-growth rate during the same period was 1.9 percent.

According to today’s release of the March 2013 unemployment rates by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Marion County posted an unemployment rate of 7.8 percent, a drop of 0.6 percent over the month and the lowest it has been since June 2008 when the rate was 7.6 percent; Citrus County’s rate fell 0.8 percentage points to 7.8 percent, the lowest since June 2008 (8.1 percent); and Levy County dropped 0.8 percentage points to 7.6 percent, the lowest since July 2008 (7.7 percent). Local rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Florida’s not seasonally adjusted unem-

ployment rate in March was 7.0 percent, the lowest since October 2008. The national rate was 7.6 percent in March.

Rusty Skinner, Workforce Connection’s chief executive officer, said the data supports “past movements” in the region.

“We are seeing continued positive signs with employment growth from last month in all three counties, certainly in terms of the drops in the number of unemployed and increases in the number of those with jobs,” Skinner said. The labor force showed slight expansion in Citrus and Levy counties and remained virtually unchanged in Marion County.

There have also been a number of employers hiring in the area, Skinner said, including R & L Trucking, HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Ocala and Lockheed Martin. In March, a total of 481 employers posted 1,583 jobs with Workforce Connection, up from 1,443 jobs in February and a 22 percent increase over the year.

Skinner said that news of the positive trend was not unexpected, noting that last week the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the second largest over-the-year unemployment rate decrease in February (-2.4 percent) among the nation’s 372 metropolitan areas, just behind Yuba City, Calif., (-2.5 percent).

Out of a slightly expanded regional labor force of 205,721, there were 16,013 unemployed, down 1,415 over the month and down 5,058 since March 2012. Here is how

the employment numbers break down for each county in the Workforce Connection region:

Governor Rick Scott FROM THE GOVERNOR’S DESK

(Continued from Page 13)

for effective inter-jurisdictional Gulf coastal state conservation and management of this species.

After more than three decades under federal management, the red snapper fishery remains mired in confusion and turmoil. We are determined to find a constructive path to resolve this unsatisfactory situation, and seek your support of legislation to allow the states to take greater responsibilities in the management of fishery resources.

#####

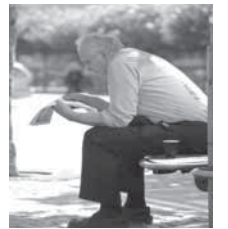
New Lawsuit Against BP and Halliburton

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott made the following statement about the state’s plan to file a new lawsuit against

BP and Halliburton to obtain economic damages resulting from the catastrophic oil spill three years ago:

“Many Florida communities were impacted by the BP oil spill that began with a tragic explosion in the Gulf three years ago tomorrow. The new lawsuit our state will file against BP and Halliburton gives us the ability to continue to fight to hold these companies accountable for the economic losses both our state and communities sustained when beaches were closed and many of our businesses lost income as a result of the spill. We will continue to hold these companies accountable, as we ensure that our Florida communities and businesses are treated fairly in the wake of this disaster.”

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