

# 'Tis the Season for Giving "Happy New Year"



Kathy Bryant says: Success! Thanks again to everyone who came out and supported our Holiday Food Drive. Our goal was 5000 lbs. As you can see we not only hit our goal but surpassed it immensely. We are so blessed to be a part of this community. See you next year!

**FOOD DRIVE**  
Down Town on the square tip the scales at 7,471 lbs of food.  
Marion County Fire Rescue collected 5,286 lbs of food.  
Other Community donations were at 2,287 lbs of food.  
A GRAND TOTAL OF 15,044 lbs and still coming in reports Major Terry Bovaired.  
Publishers Note: All of Marion County turned out to help and the county keeps breaking records from the year before. I applaud you all!  
TomL



## Jumbolair

The CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce held an After Hours event. The Ribbon Cutting was the main part of the event but many businesses were in attendance and exchanged business cards. The door prizes were over the top. The main drawing was lunch with the Jumbolair crew in the Keys. Yes, they fly you and your guest to the Keys for a casual lunch. Let's look at Jumbolair.

Jumbolair is on its way to becoming the nation's largest and most exclusive fly-in community. It has beautiful homes and a business center built by Terri Jones and her former husband, Arthur Jones, the inventor of the Nautilus exercise equipment.

Jumbolair was originally owned by Muriel Vanderbilt Adams, but Jumbolair really began with the eccentricity of Arthur Jones.

Located in Marion County it is truly a site to behold with its large oak trees, beautiful homes and its spacious runway.

It's been said that some very famous live here.

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- Real Estate
- Political Questions



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

Florida House of Representatives

# DENNIS K. BAXLEY



It has been said that most people don't have any problem with their own inconsistencies. This time of year brings a special focus on various inconsistencies. Look at the Capitol for example. A Christian group set-up a simple nativity scene and now we have a winter solstice banner along with a stack of beer cans to celebrate Festivus. If you're wondering what Festivus is – it's a made up holiday that originated in the popular television show Seinfeld. It's a

mockery, no doubt, as the person who put it up said "I still chuckle, I literally can't believe there will be a pile of Pabst Blue Ribbon cans in the state rotunda."

While many of us might get a little hot under the collar with this sort of display, it begs us to ask the question - do we have any inconsistencies of our own? Do we display Santa and his reindeer in our own yard, but not a nativity scene? Can we somehow channel this anger and frustration and turn it into something positive? For example, instead of writing letters to the editor of our local paper, could we send a warm Christmas greeting to the brave men and women serving in our military who are away from their family? Could we visit a nursing home and honor the

men and women who might not have family to care for them? Can we disengage from the materialism of Christmas and focus on what really matters – spending time with family and remembering the birth of our Savior? Instead of getting upset about that clerk who says "Happy Holidays", could we simply wish them a Merry Christmas and give them a special blessing?

Someone once said that when we point a finger we have four pointing right back at us. Let's seize every opportunity (even if it's negative) and make something positive and life-changing out of it. If we're a little more consistent with our own actions we might just change the world!

Onward and upward,  
Dennis K. Baxley

## New Year

What a way to bring in the New Year - collecting 15,000 lbs plus food for the needy. What a way for the County Commissioners to bring in the New Year by helping with it. The organizations that I am in are all helping each other and the needy. Feeding people, collecting money, buying necessary items for the needy and donating gifts for those children in need. This a time for

giving and Marion County / Lake County / Sumter County are doing their job.

We have come a long way since our nation was formed and with Love of Freedom, Love of God and Love of our fellow men/women we will recover from what is going on now and thrive in the future.

REFLECTIONS: The newspapers' goal is and was to help people, supply information and the main goal of these newspapers is to make sure everyone has the opportunity to see their opinion in print, whether I agree with it or not.

Some of the things that we have done in the past we have had to back off on. The Senior Fishing Derby is one we can no longer afford to do. We did it for nine years, two a year, 18 Fishing Derbys. Do you realize over all that is \$1800 in bait, \$900 in Hot-dogs, and 36 days of preparation not to mention the hamburgers, buns, drinks, lettuce, tomatoes, beans and etc?

Door prizes abound. TomL Publishing LLC purchased at least 70 complete fishing rods and reels, again there were many businesses donating door prizes. The sponsor that was twice a year was BJ Trophies.

Preparation of the food was done by the Senior Center and the cooking of the meat was done by Clay Electric.

We have introduced many people this last year and here are a few; Rob Ziebart, Brian Stootoff, Chris Blair, Ellie Hancock, Victoria Windam, KevinSheilly to name a few. We have had many controversial stories, some with special headlines like Dancing with the Devil, or Liar, Liar Pants on Fire. We endorsed three candidates and two were elected. The third should have been and probably would have had laws not been broken. Now we are informing the people about the Sabal Trail gas line that is coming through Marion County.

PREDICTIONS: I am looking very strongly at candidates for local, state and federal. I'm seeing trends forming. If any of the Marion County candidates running for office did one thing I think they would get elected especially the incumbents.

I believe the State of Florida will be in the top five in new jobs created which will make the state financially well on a state level. From there we will have to see how the Federal or our entire country fares. I see several ways of reducing the debt but who am I? Not an economist for sure. I think we could do it in eight years but the private sector would not be happy.

In all it's going to be a good year. Money will be moving we just need to figure out how to put ourselves in its path. Only make resolutions that you mean to keep, look at them every day before you start. Believe in God, yourself, your family and keep your friends close to you.



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Brody left his friends to catch up on the news.

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Thomas L. Croley, M.D.

## CARING FOR YOUR EYES



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

“Driving and Your Vision”

Are you familiar with the big “E” on the eye chart? If I told you there are people who are driving that cannot even see the big “E” would you believe me? Think about it the next time you drive through town. It’s a

little scary isn’t it? I know we all understand how important good vision is when driving, but let me give you an example to drive that fact home (no pun intended). Let’s say you have 20/20 vision (which is considered perfect distance vision) and are driving down the road at 55 mph. Next to you is a car with a driver who has 20/200 vision. As you both drive down the road a ball bounces into the road and someone’s child or grandchild runs in the road to get it. You, with your 20/20 vision, now have 200 feet to react to the ball and child. The person next to you has 20 feet to react to the ball and child. Remember you are both driving at 55 mph. Do I need

to say more?

There are many reasons that can contribute to a decrease in vision. One reason may be simply that you may require a change in your glasses. Unfortunately, there are a variety of conditions that can affect our vision. Some conditions can change our vision so gradually that you may be unaware that you may even have a decrease in your vision. You may notice occasional difficulties such as difficulty seeing in extreme low or bright light situations, or you may notice your vision improving after you blink. Some days your eyes may just seem tired. There may even be a time when you discover your vision seems to be better without your glasses.

Conditions such as cataracts, macular de-

generation, diabetes, hypertension, arthritis, thyroid disease, dry eyes, glaucoma, as well as many others can affect your vision in a number of different ways. Some medications can also affect your vision.

Take note of the last time you had a complete eye examination. If it has been over a year, please make an appointment. If you have noticed a problem or change in your vision, don’t wait for your annual exam, call today and request a prompt appointment. Your safety and the safety of others may depend on it.

The gift of sight must be treasured. Early detection, diagnosis and treatment can help maintain good vision for a lifetime. Complete eye examinations are an important part of your health maintenance routine.

## Bring the Harvest Home

“Bring the Harvest Home” wrapped up December 6th with Holiday Food Drive on the Square.

MARION COUNTY, FLA. For weeks, Marion County’s public agencies, businesses and citizens have partnered to collect donations for Marion’s neediest families and helped them “Bring the Harvest Home” this holiday season. Those efforts culminated on Dec. 6 with a Holiday Food Drive on the Ocala Downtown Square. Residents and businesses that took part in the food drive stopped by the Square and dropped off their canned food and toiletry donations. Those who stopped by with donations were also invited to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate courtesy of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office.

“This holiday food drive was one last push to help re-stock area pantries’ shelves with the food and goods that will carry our neighbors in need through the holidays,” Marion County Commissioner Kathy Bryant said. “We encouraged everyone to bring their donations to the Square as we celebrated the spirit of the season with thoughtful giving.”

Local pantries are in most need of the following items:

- Dry goods/foods that complement dry goods (rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, crackers, peanut butter and jelly).
- Canned meats (corned beef, corned beef hash, ham and tuna).
- Canned vegetables and fruit.
- Baby items (powdered formula, diapers and lotion).
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and toilet paper).

Donations were distributed to Brother’s Keeper, Interfaith Emergency Services and the Salvation Army.

A team of local governmental, fire rescue and law enforcement agencies re-launched the month long “Bring the Harvest Home” food drive to help re-stock Marion County’s depleted food pantries. Partner agencies this year included: Marion County Board of County Commissioners, City of Ocala, Marion County Clerk of the Court, Marion County Property Appraiser, Marion County Sheriff’s Office, Marion County Supervisor of Elections, Marion County Tax Collector, Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership and the Dunnellon Police Department.

# 3rd Annual Taste of Wellness

- Kid's 12 and under Free
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**Friday, January 24, 2014**  
**4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**  
**Leesburg Community Center**  
**109 E. Dixie Avenue**

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 More Info & Tickets available at [tasteofwellness.org](http://tasteofwellness.org)

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**All proceeds benefit World Wellness Education, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization**

Tom Lorry

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Debt added by 43 presidents from 1789 to 1980 \$6.3 Trillion.

Debt added by president Obama to date is \$6.5 Trillion

A few big achievements Barack Obama's Presidency has ac-

complished:

The \$800 billion stimulus plan passed in 2009, \$6.5 trillion in debt - more than 43 Presidents in history, Obamacare, the assassination of Osama Bin Laden, and huge tax increases.

The Droning of the terrorist leaders. I agree that it is a good way to go BUT, in other countries they say that we are assassins. What is the difference? We are at war with them, which means anything goes.

The Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire headline last month hit home for a lot of people. Emails started rolling in the next day that the papers went out and the next few days the phone rang. Every call and every email was positive. Remember the guy who said "I have a dream"? Well "we got the nightmare!"

The republicans need to save some of this information that is erupting into the air-

way. They will need this stuff for the election. Don't empty the basket totally now. Of course right now the current administration is its own worst enemy and could continue to lose face for years to come.

Last month I charged that I got a call from a Democrat that did not want the paper but refused to give his address so that I could stop it. Well he did not call me but I did get an email that I suspect was him. He will not get a January paper, his loss!

Santa Over The Rainbow at Rainbow Springs was a magnificent display. They had thousands of lights, lighted trails to walk, and Santa appeared to talk to the children. I went and enjoyed it and a great time was had by all. The lighting is done by volunteers which they are in constant search for.

Please read the ads in this paper and use our advertisers. Let them know which paper you read their ad in and please get it right. Several times people have seen a picture in the paper and said they saw the picture but it was a different paper. The advertiser told the patron that her picture was not in that but that it was one of our papers. The patron argued and the customer agreed and told me about it later.

Several of our competitors are saying we

are in The Villages or On Top of the World or some other area. The Daily newspapers from surrounding areas have some paid subscriptions in The Villages but they are in the

hundreds not thousands, a few could have several thousand but not saturation levels. WE DO!

## Heart of Florida Model A Restorers Club (HOFMARC)

This Model A Ford club is open to anyone who has an interest in or owns a 1928 to 1931 Ford Model A vehicle.

The club meets the first Saturday of the month at different restaurants in the area. The club also does tours of interesting

points and holds technical seminars on the mechanics of the car.

You do not need to own a Model A Ford to be a member. Come visit and stay. For more information please contact Frank Lynch at 352-430-2669.

## Ocala Art & Frame

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dreds of frames in styles such as classic, contemporary, and modern, and in numerous woodgrains and colors.

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We've got Mats of all colors and texture types. We offer Precut Mats, Custom Mats, and Hand Carved Mats. To enhance drawings, needlework, photographs, diplomas, newspaper clippings, post cards, memorabilia...



**Newspaper Deadlines**

*Editorial & Ad Copy for February*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**  
12am, January 22nd

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**  
12am, January 29th

**Ocala DownTown**  
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From the Office of  
**THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF**

On Monday, November 25, 2013, members of the State Attorney's Office met with members of Sheriff Blair's senior staff in regard to a battery alleged to have been committed by corrections officer, Charlie Broaderick ("Broaderick"), on an individual who was being booked into the Marion County Jail. On Tuesday, November 26th, Sheriff Blair was briefed by his senior staff on the contents of the meeting with the State Attorney's Office, including that the State Attorney intended to file criminal charges against Broaderick for misdemeanor battery. Upon receiving this information, immediate action was taken to place Broaderick on paid suspension pending his arrest and, once charges are filed, Broaderick will be placed on unpaid suspension pending the conclusion of the criminal proceedings related to his arrest. Employees of the Marion County Sheriff's Office are expected, and required, to maintain the highest level of integrity and accountability in our dealings with the public – including inmates incarcerated in the Marion County Jail. Sheriff Blair takes any allegations of misconduct, whether in the jail or otherwise, extremely seriously and

will not condone any inappropriate or criminal conduct. When and where such allegations of misconduct arise, Sheriff Blair will act promptly to determine the merit of the allegations and levy appropriate discipline while also respecting the individual's right to due process through the criminal proceeding.

Mary Alexander, 47, of Ocala has been charged with organized fraud. Alexander's arrest, today, stems from an ongoing investigation by the Marion County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Medicaid Fraud Unit of the Attorney General's Office. The first phase of this case started back in June of this year. That's when both agencies executed multiple search warrants on Alexander's homes. The concern was Alexander was operating unlicensed assisted living facilities and neglecting the elderly and/or disabled adults living in her homes. Alexander and Tara Collins-Johnson were arrested in June on those charges. During the execution of the search warrants, investigators found ten (10) Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards in Alexander's purse and none of the

cards belong to her. Investigators, working with the United States Department of Agriculture, learned that Alexander used at least two cards to purchase more than \$3,000 in various items. Investigators say Alexander did not have permission to use the cards. According to the arrest affidavit, Alexander "engaged in a scheme to defraud" by obtaining the EBT cards in the names of at least two victims without their knowledge. Alexander was arrested and booked into the Marion County Jail.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office needs your help in finding Samuel Bing, 25, of Reddick. Bing is accused of beating a 66-year-old victim and breaking bones about the victim's face. The victim is mentally disabled due to dementia and schizophrenia and needs 24-hour care. Bing reportedly was hired to take care of the victim, according to the incident report. When the primary care person arrived, she noticed "the entire right side of his face (victim) was swollen." The primary care person asked Bing what hap-

pened? Did you hit him? Bing, reportedly, said "yeah, I hit him," then left the scene. The victim was admitted into the hospital. The victim is unable to speak. A Marion County Sheriff's Office Deputy was able to contact Bing by phone. Bing refused to turn himself into law enforcement. Bing is a black male with brown hair, brown eyes and he stands about 5-foot, 11 inches and weighs around 160 pounds. Some people call him by his nickname "Bubba." If you know the whereabouts of Samuel Bing, call 911.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office Annual Underprivileged Children's Christmas Party took place for 98 children from Marion Oaks Elementary School arrived by way of the "Santa Express" to the campus of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 692 N.W. 30th Avenue, Ocala. The children played with clowns; enjoyed face painting; saw sheriff's office motorcycles; got close to horses from the mounted unit.

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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Movies @ 8th Ave. Senior Center

January 14th & 15th **MAN OF STEEL**  
Starring: Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Michael Shannon, Diane Lane, Russell Crowe

A young boy learns that he has extraordinary powers and is not of this earth. As a young man, he makes a journey to discover where he came from and find out what he was sent here to do. Eventually, the hero in him must emerge if he is to save the world from annihilation and become the symbol of hope for all mankind. Rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for intense sequences of sci-fi violence, action and destruction, and for some language.

January 28th & 29th **FAMILY MAN**

Starring: Nicolas Cage, Téa Leoni, Don Cheadle, Jeremy Piven, Saul Rubinek

Jack Campbell is a Wall Street trader living the high life in New York City. When Jack, who has forsaken all for the pursuit of money, becomes involved in a grocery store holdup, everything changes. He awakens the next morning, on a snowy Christmas day, lying in bed next to a wife--Kate, the college sweetheart he dumped when his career ambitions took hold--whom he never married, and in a house with two kids he never had. Now living in New Jersey in an alternate suburban universe, he has a chance to see how his life would have turned out had he married Kate and raised a family.

Jack soon begins to feel strangely comfortable in the new role of loving husband and father, finding himself happy in the life he would have led had he made different

choices as a young man. Rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for sensuality and some language.

Seating is limited so please call 8th Ave. Senior Center at 629-8545 to reserve your seat for each movie.

Movies will be shown at 1:30pm.

### Movies @ Barbara Washington Senior Center

January 9th, 2014 **MAN OF STEEL**

Starring: Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Michael Shannon, Diane Lane, Russell Crowe

A young boy learns that he has extraordinary powers and is not of this earth. As a young man, he makes a journey to discover where he came from and find out what he was sent here to do. Eventually, the hero in him must emerge if he is to save the world from annihilation and become the symbol of hope for all mankind. Rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of

America for intense sequences of sci-fi violence, action and destruction, and for some language.

January 23 **WHITE HOUSE DOWN**

Washington D.C. policeman John Cale has just been denied his dream job of being a Secret Service agent and protecting President James Sawyer. Not wanting to disappoint his young daughter with the news, he takes her on a tour of the White House, and they are there when the complex is overtaken by a paramilitary group. Now the nation's government is falling into chaos, time is running out and it's up to Cale to save the president, his daughter and the country.

Rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for prolonged sequences of action and violence including intense gunfire and explosions, some language and a brief sexual image.

Seating is limited, so please call Grace at 629-8357 to reserve your seat for each movie. Movie will be shown at 1:00pm.

### COMING EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2014

#### INCOME TAX HELP

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting February 3rd, 2014 thru April 14th, 2014

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Cost: Free

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

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

### SENIOR TRIP: BARBARA LEE SCENIC CRUISES, SANFORD, FL

When: Wednesday, January 22nd, 2014  
Leave 8th Ave. Sr. Center at 8:30 AM Return 6:00 PM

Cost: \$67.00 per person Lunch included

What: Cruise in a climate controlled paddle boat down the St. John's River for a close-up view of the area's abundant wildlife. All meals prepared fresh on board and live music and dancing. Reservations are required and seating is limited to 45. For more information, please call Grace at 629-8357.

## House Fire Claims One Life in Ocala

\*Immediate release. For further information contact Brian Stoothoff at (352) 629-8306.

Firefighters with Ocala Fire Rescue responded to a residential structure fire at 8:51 p.m. on December 17th. On arrival firefighters found flames through the roof, with about 25 percent of the one story concrete block home involved in fire. Firefighters encountered heavy smoke inside and shortly after arrival a portion of the roof collapsed. Searching the structure firefighters found

one person inside deceased.

According to Battalion Chief Shane Alexander, the fire was placed under control at 9:20 p.m. Twenty six firefighters were called to the scene, including a fire chaplain to console family members and neighbors. An Ocala Fire Rescue fire investigator responded to the scene, and the State Fire Marshal's office was contacted to assist according to protocol for scenes involving fire deaths. The fire occurred at 1320 Southeast 14th Street.

# Happy New Year

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

When will it STOP? Everything you buy is from China. Regardless of whether it's an appliances, clothing, cosmetics, shoes, etc. No wonder there are no manufacturing jobs here. As if that isn't bad enough, there is a possibility that prescription drugs and vaccines could be coming from China. China where it seems they have no regulations. We pay a lot for drugs in the U.S. and the reason that has always been given is because it includes the cost for research. However, now we read that it is cheaper to do research in China but at what risk? Do the Chinese monitor trials like they do in the U.S.? Not

according to an article in the 12/5/13 Daily Sun. When will it STOP? Then how about the largest Chinese takeover of a U.S. company when it purchased Smithfield Foods Inc. the world's largest producer of pork. If I had to have heart surgery, kidney dialysis or take heparin, a blood thinner derived from pig intestines, I would be very concerned since inspections in China are not like they are in this Country. When will it STOP? Remember when the toothpaste that came from China sicken people a few years back. The same with toys, baby formula and just recently the jerky treats that killed hundreds of canines and sicken thousands more.

When will it STOP? Then what about the fish that swim through sewage and pesticides that ends up in grocery stores here. Now there is talk that chickens raised in China will be appearing in U.S. grocery stores in 2014. When will it STOP? We have strict regulations and inspections, with severe punishment for violators in this Country and should not import inferior/contaminated/unsafe food. We need to keep the jobs here and stop importing food from China.

LNL  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor,

As we look forward to the new year, there is this nagging awareness that April 15th is rushing toward us. Between now and then we all will be doing our best to comply with the IRS tax code and submit a tax return in which we have to give Uncle Sam more information than we are willing to tell our own children. And each year it's gets more complicated. Ben from Snappy Tax, a member of the Select Business Associates, provided us with some of the following information. Although the FICA tax will remain the same, the wage base will increase. I don't remember a year in which it did not increase. Some will be affected by higher Medicare taxes, higher net investment taxes, higher Social Security taxes, higher capital gains taxes, and of course, higher income tax rates. There are also changes in deductions, exemptions, depreciation and credits. And let's not forget that in 2014 the Affordable Care Act is set to further complicate an already impossible tax system with penalties,

finances and thousands more pages of rules and regulations. How does one keep up? Most people don't; they depend on a tax preparer like Snappy Tax or computer software. But what about the people that try (and succeed) to scam the system. These people cost us, the honest tax payer, hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Do a quick search online and you'll find that noncompliance costs us about \$400 billion each year. That's over \$1000 for every person in this country. The more complicated the federal income tax becomes, the more unscrupulous people find a way around it. So what do we do about this? Repeal the 16th Amendment, fire the IRS and adopt the FairTax, HR 25. The Florida FairTax Education association ([www.flfairtax.org](http://www.flfairtax.org)) and the Americans For Fair Taxation ([www.fairtax.org](http://www.fairtax.org)) have been working on raising awareness of the FairTax legislation for years and we will continue until it becomes the law of the land. Learn more by going to those websites or by reading the book "The FairTax Book" by Boortz & Linder. LEARN MORE. GET INVOLVED. MAKE IT HAPPEN!

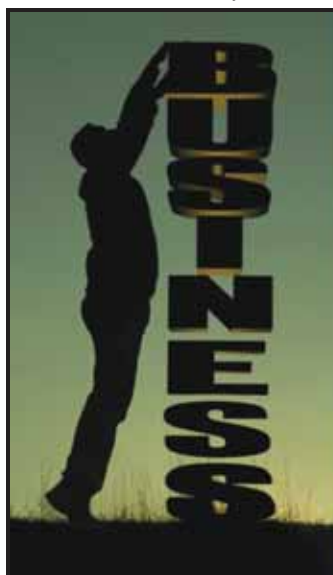
RM  
Ocala, FL  
\*\*\*\*\*

To the editor

I did not read "Dancing with the Devil", but I totally agree with you article in the paper I got today.

I believe Ben Carson is the person that meets all of your criteria for someone who could prevail in being the champion we

(Continued on Page 8)



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**Tom Loury 804-1223**



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For more information and the date of the next session, please contact:  
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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 7)

need.

M B

Publishers Note: I would like to see Ben Carson raise his voice and say "WE NEED CHANGE!" "LET'S TAKE BACK AMERICA!" He will be up against one of the best speakers and best liars of all times.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mornin' Tom,

Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire . . .

Loved it Tom. Always look forward to reading your articles.

G

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Tom

Just wanted to let you know that I enjoyed the article on the seeing eye dog. People do not realize the importance of service dogs. We live in Cherry Wood Estates and have a very wonderful dedicated Veterans Club here, among all the good they do for our Wounded Warriors they have taken up supporting "Patriot Service Dogs". It takes 2500.00 per dog to raise and train it to serve our Wounded warriors., we have already in a short time sponsored one dog and now we are working on a second dog. It is interest-

ing just how these dogs are raised. You can learn about them by visiting

www.Patriot servicedogs.org

Our community here has done a great job supporting them.

Wishing you and yours a Very Blesased Christmas and a healthy New Year. Keep up the good work!

PL

\*\*\*\*\*

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Historic Ocala Preservation Society (HOPS) we thank you for helping us inform folks about our historic home candlelight tour last evening. It was a TREMENDOUS success and your assistance with public relations in your area helped make a huge difference!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THANKS AGAIN,

Pamela Stafford

Car Strikes Utility Pole, Two Injured

\*Immediate release. For further information contact Brian Stoothoff at (352) 629-8306.

(OCALA, Fla.) December 17, 2013 – A single vehicle struck a utility pole injuring two occupants this morning. The driver is believed to have suffered a medical emergency and was found unconscious on the arrival of firefighters. The collision occurred on the west side of Jacksonville Road at Northeast 28th Street.

According to Battalion Chief Shane Alexander, Ocala Fire Rescue responded at 8:21 a.m. and arrived on scene within four minutes.

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*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And auld lang syne!*

*- For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne.  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,  
For auld lang syne.*



Governor Rick Scott  
**FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK**

**GOVERNOR SCOTT ANNOUNCES \$88 MILLION IN PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL EARLY RESTORATION PROJECTS**

~28 Proposed Projects Benefitting Florida's Panhandle~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the third set of Natural Resource Damage Assessment early restoration projects proposed by Florida's Trustees to remedy damages made by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. On April 20, 2011, BP agreed to provide \$1 billion in early restoration funds to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees for early restoration projects. The total 28 proposed early restoration projects will be implemented throughout affected panhandle counties and are expected to utilize approximately \$88 million of Florida's total allocation.

Governor Scott said, "Today's announcement is great news for Florida and the families who call the Panhandle home. This funding will work to protect Florida's environment so future generations of Floridians will be able to enjoy our state's great natural treasures."

Each Trustee, including Florida, has access to \$100 million for early restoration projects that meet criteria described in the Framework Agreement. The first two sets of projects in Florida put forth by the Trustees used approximately \$12 million of Florida's

share of the billion dollars. The first two sets of projects include boat ramp and dune restorations along with coastal conservation projects, which seek to remedy damages incurred by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and resulting response activities.

The third phase of projects includes a \$19 million marine fisheries hatchery enhancement center in Escambia County, a \$12 million artificial reef creation and restoration regional project and a \$10 million restoration and recreation project in Okaloosa County. Other projects include beach nourishment efforts, habitat restoration, oyster reef and dune restoration and increased recreation opportunities in the form of boat ramps, beach access points and park improvements.

Before any of the proposed projects are finalized, the projects will go through a 60-day public comment period that runs through Feb. 4. Included in the comment period are two public meetings in Florida; one in Pensacola on Jan. 28 and one on Jan. 29 in Panama City.

Senator Don Gaetz, Senate President, said, "I applaud Governor Scott, Secretary Vinyard of the FDEP, and Nick Wiley of FWC for their commitment to the counties that have been affected by the BP oil spill. The selection of the Norriego Point Restoration and the Habitat Restoration in Ft. Walton Beach demonstrate the good work that comes out of state and local communities

working together."

Senator Bill Montford, said, "I want to recognize Governor Scott and Secretary Vinyard of the FDEP for their commitment to the counties that have been affected by the BP oil spill. I am happy to see projects being proposed in Franklin, Gulf, and Wakulla Counties and other regional projects that will benefit its citizens in a major way."

Representative Halsey Beshears said, "Governor Scott and Secretary Vinyard of the FDEP are committed to the counties that have been affected by the BP oil spill. The regional projects being proposed show this and are a great way to improve the areas hardest hit in Florida by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill."

Representative Mike Hill said, "I want to thank Governor Scott and Secretary Vinyard of the FDEP for their commitment to the counties that have been affected by the BP oil spill. Today's announcement of the proposed project at Escribano Point is an example of the link Florida has between a healthy environment and a strong economy. This project along with the three others in Santa Rosa County will improve access to natural resources for our residents and visitors."

Representative Clay Ingram said, "I am excited that six projects have been proposed for Escambia County, and I applaud Governor Scott and FDEP Secretary Vinyard for their continued work to restore Florida's Gulf Coast, which was so badly damaged as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill." Representative Jimmy Patronis said, "I

applaud Governor Scott and Secretary Vinyard of the FDEP for their commitment to the counties that have been affected by the BP oil spill. The improvements to the Panama City Fishing Pier are vital, since this is the only fishing pier in Panama City, and use of natural resources is what draws so many people to our area."

Walton County Commissioner Sara Comander said, "I am excited to see the proposal of several projects specifically for Walton County as well as other regional projects benefitting our county, which will allow visitors and residents to use our beautiful natural resources."

Santa Rosa County Commissioner Jim Melvin said, "Today's announcement is welcome news for Santa Rosa County. The proposed projects are an important investment in our vital local natural resources, resources which not only support our diverse wildlife, but also support the quality of life for our residents by enhancing economic and recreational opportunities. We look forward to the public review process and implementation of these restoration projects."

Wakulla County Commission Chairman Merritt said, "It is an honor to have three of Wakulla's NRDA projects selected out of hundreds submitted from other counties and organizations. These funds are an asset to Wakulla and will be put to good use by improving and enhancing our parks for the enjoyment and use of our citizens and visitors."

Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave  
**(Continued on Page 10)**

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Governor Rick Scott

## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 9)

Parisot said, "The projects of the Norriego Point Restoration in Destin and the Northwest Florida Estuarine Restoration in Fort Walton Beach have been jointly proposed and supported by Okaloosa County and the two cities' mayors and staff. These projects will serve to enhance and protect the Destin Harbor, improve recreation activities, and enhance eco-tourism in Okaloosa County. We are most grateful to the NRDA Trustee Council and to FDEP Secretary Vinyard in supporting these projects."

Destin City Mayor Sam Seevers said, "On behalf of the City of Destin, I wish to thank DEP, FWC and the NRDA Trustees for recognizing the significance of the Norriego Point Project. I realize the decisions to fund projects is a very difficult one but you all have made the City of Destin and Okaloosa County very happy. There are simply no words great enough that can possibly express our gratitude."

"The City of Destin began applying for assistance through the NRDA process in late 2010, after the oil spill diminished a promising tourist season and crippled the city's charter fishing fleet. Over the last three years, we have worked tirelessly to submit applications and file for permits to qualify for NRDA funds to stabilize Norriego Point."

"Norriego Point is the city's most unique asset and protects our wonderful charter fish-

ing fleet which is vital to our local, as well as regional, economy. This funding provides us with the means to permanently eliminate the erosion of the point and ensure that our harbor is accessible for years to come.

"We look forward to working with DEP through this process and look forward to cutting the ribbon on this much needed project."

Bay County Commission Chair Guy Tunnell said, "The Gulf oil spill was a tragedy not only for Bay County and Northwest Florida, but all along the Gulf of Mexico, threatening our environment, our economy and our very way of life. Through assistance such as this, communities can begin to rebuild for the future."

FDEP Secretary Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr. said, "Governor Scott's announcement of the third set of projects and the Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Programmatic Early Restoration Plan is a significant step in restoring Florida's environment, which was damaged as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. We recognize that we still have a long way to go in terms of restoration, and look forward to hearing from the public during the comment period."

Nick Wiley, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director, said, "These projects are important steps in restoring our habitat and recreational oppor-

tunities for today and for future generations. There are several projects in this package that would help recover and ensure a bright future for saltwater fishing in the Gulf. We look forward to the upcoming public meetings and input from the public and our stakeholders."

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission are co-Trustees for the state of Florida in the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Other members of the Trustee Council include the U.S. Department of Interior, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Trustees from the other affected Gulf States (Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas). The Trustee Council represents the public interest and works together to assess the injury to natural resources and develop plans to restore the injured resources through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process.

For more information on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, public meetings, and projects ideas being submitted visit [www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizonflorida.com).

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Gov. Scott: Statewide Unemployment Rate Falls To 6.4 Percent

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott today announced that the statewide unemployment rate for November 2013 was 6.4 percent. The statewide unemployment rate has remained below the national average of 7.0 percent since March 2013. Florida

added 6,000 private sector jobs in November 2013 and the state has created a total of 446,300 private sector jobs since December 2010.

Governor Scott said, "We haven't experienced an unemployment rate this low in over five years. At 6.4 percent, we're well below the nation's 7 percent unemployment rate, and we added another 6,000 new jobs in November. We've cut taxes, made government more efficient and provided more services to families. The result: we are creating an opportunity economy that supports more than 446,000 new private sector jobs since December 2010. Today's news is great, but we're not finished. We're proposing to cut automobile taxes and fees by \$401 million in our next budget. In 2009, those fees were raised, and we're going to undo that 54 percent increase on Florida families."

The state gained 6,000 private sector jobs in November 2013. Florida's annual job growth rate of 2.5 percent in October and November 2013 was the fastest since June 2006. The state's annual job growth rate has exceeded or been equal to the nation's rate since March 2012.

DEO Executive Director Jesse Panuccio said, "The economic news just keeps getting better for Florida. We've had another significant drop in the unemployment rate, continued job growth, and job demand is at an all-time high. The policies of the Scott Administration are working to create an opportunity economy for all Floridians."

Since December 2010, Florida's state-

(Continued on Page 11)



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## Governor Rick Scott FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 10)

wide unemployment rate has dropped 4.7 percentage points, from a rate of 11.1 percent to November's rate of 6.4 percent. The current rate of 6.4 percent represents the lowest statewide unemployment rate since July 2008. It is also a decrease of 1.6 percentage points from November 2012, when the rate was 8.0 percent. Florida's unemployment rate has now declined year-over-year for 37 consecutive months.

### More Jobs Being Created

- Florida experienced positive annual job growth for 40 consecutive months.
- Florida's job growth month-to-month has been positive for 27 of the last 29 months.
- Florida has created 446,300 new private

sector jobs since December 2010.

- Florida is expected to create more than 1 million new jobs by 2018, according to the Florida Economic Estimating Conference.

- Florida job postings compiled by the Help Wanted OnLine data series from The Conference Board showed 279,789 openings in November 2013. This was an all-time high in the data series that began in May 2005.

### Home Sales Robust

- Home sales remain robust as the backlog of existing homes on the market is down by 48 percent from February 2011 (Florida Realtors).
- Florida median home prices were up 13.3 percent over the year in November 2013.

Economic Growth Trends Up Across State

- A recent U.S. Census Survey reported that Florida experienced an influx of people moving into the state. Florida also led the nation in migrations from Puerto Rico.

- Florida is running a trade surplus of over \$18 billion – with \$90.4 billion in exports and \$71.8 billion in imports in 2012, up from \$86.8 billion in exports in 2011 and \$62.4 billion in imports in 2011.

Workforce Boards Assisting in Employment

- In November, Florida's 24 Regional Workforce Boards reported more than 42,100 Floridians were placed in jobs. An individual who receives employment and training assistance through a One-Stop Career Center and finds a job within 180 days is deemed a placement and may be reported by a regional workforce board. Of these individuals, 12,091 previously received Re-

employment Assistance.

- In 2012, more than 426,000 Floridians were placed in jobs, with 111,173 former claimants finding employment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Governor Rick Scott Selects Three Inductees to Florida Women's Hall of Fame

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the selection of Dottie Berger MacKinnon, Sheriff Susan Benton, and Louise Jones Gopher to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Governor Scott chose the three women from a list of 10 distinguished nominees selected by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women for making significant contributions to the improvement of life for women and all citizens of Florida.

MacKinnon, (1942-2013), formerly of Tampa, committed her life to child advocacy. Mrs. MacKinnon was a founder of

(Continued on Page 13)

# Select Business Associates

SBA of Ocala is an Association of non-competing, professional business people who meet on a weekly basis to share information pertaining to the local business communities as well as each individual business. The purpose of SBA is to bring together like-minded professionals to increase their business through building relationships and sharing knowledge.

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# CEP Moving Forward

By Kevin Sheilley

As we begin the new year, the CEP has much to celebrate as we look back over our first year. The CEP will celebrate 2013 and the year's accomplishments at our Annual CEP Partners Lunch on 29 January at Ocala Breeders Sales, but I wanted to take a moment and relay some of the highlights. This month we will focus on the great success and strides our Business Attraction and Business Retention efforts have made and will focus on Business Creation, Business Services, and Business Advocacy next month.

What a year it has been! Last January in front of the largest crowd of business and industry leaders ever gathered in our com-

munity, the CEP outlined a five-year plan: Moving Forward. The plan outlined three strategic goals to be met over the next five years (impact the creation of 3500 new jobs, which on average pay 15% above the average county wage, and result in a capital investment of \$225 million) and the two guiding principles to reach those goals (does it create or retain jobs, does it provide a return for our investors). The plan outlines the five program areas and the staff and investment need to accomplish those goals. By the end of 2013, the CEP had nearly filled all of the staff positions needed, growing from five team members to thirteen and revenues had grown significantly over the past year with

approximately 225 new partners.  
Business Attraction

The most talked about projects of the year were in the area of logistics. R+L Carriers announced in February that it would be locating its IT and Logistics Management Center in Ocala creating 250 high wage jobs. This announcement followed the news that FedEx would be locating a new ground sort hub in the new Ocala-Marion County Commerce Park resulting in a \$125 million capital investment. These two projects represent a significant investment in the area's already strong logistics sector and sets the area off as one that not is ideal on moving goods from but on advising you on how best to do so.

The Ocala MSA continued to see its unemployment rate plummet while the job growth rate led the state's for most of the year. In fact, for the area's job growth rate (which was more than double the national rate for the year) was highlighted by Forbes when the magazine named the Ocala MSA to its list of Top 10 Metros for Job Growth. We were the only MSA in Florida or east of

the Mississippi River to make the list.  
Business Retention

A desire of the CEP is to have the best business retention program in the State of Florida and we believe we are well on our way. By fall, we had placed two team members in roles to work exclusively with our existing businesses looking for ways to assist the businesses in removing barriers to their growth. Duties are split with one focusing on primary industries (manufacturing, distribution, and large office) and the other focused on small to medium businesses. While the effort is just beginning, we have already seen results as we have been able to assist businesses with barriers ranging from financing to training, from regulations to hiring. Expect to hear more news in 2014 on the difference our business retention team is making.

The first year of the CEP has been a great one and we are excited about the opportunities in store for our community in 2014. Thank you for your partnership and desire to help keep our community Moving Forward!



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Governor Rick Scott

## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

(Continued from Page 11)

Joshua House, a haven for children removed from their families, and chaired the Friends of Joshua House Foundation board from 2003 to 2006. She also served as chair and founder of Kids Charity of Tampa Bay. Most recently, MacKinnon founded A Kid's Place, a group home in Brandon where siblings can live together after being taken from their homes over abuse or neglect. From 1994 to 1998, MacKinnon also served on the Hillsborough County Commission, serving as chair from 1996 to 1997. Recently, the Tampa Metro Civitan Club honored both MacKinnon and her husband with the Citizens of the Year award for their philanthropic work.

Benton, 64, of Sebring, is the sheriff of Highlands County. In 2004, she was the first female elected Sheriff in the history of the state of Florida. After taking office, Benton

created a partnership between the community and the Sheriff's Office by creating the first-ever strategic plan. In 2012, Benton was named the first female president of the Florida Sheriffs Association in the organization's 118-year history.

Gopher, 68, of Okeechobee, is a lifelong educator. From 2003 to 2007, she served as the Director of Education for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Gopher was the first female Seminole Indian to earn a bachelor's degree. She led the way for the creation of the first Native American Charter School east of the Mississippi, Pemaaytv Ernahakv. In 1999, Gopher was selected as one of the Palm Beach Post 100 people who changed the way we live during the 20th century. In 2007, she received the Wescott Award from Florida State University for a lifetime of work in education.



Rainbow Springs Dunnellon, Florida. This picture was taken on volunteer night and the test run for the lights for Santa over the Rainbow. Refreshments were served and the lights were fantastic.



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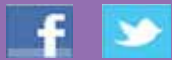
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