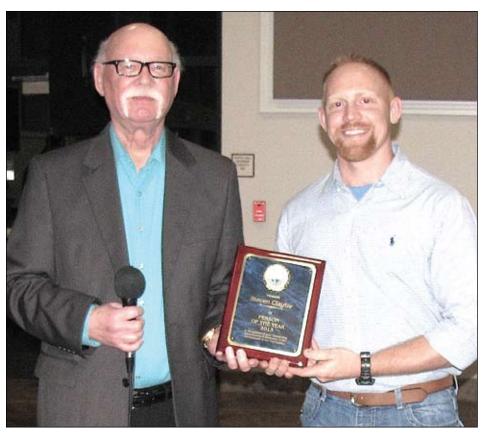
Ocala Business Leaders Hold Dinner



Ocala Business Leaders held their annual Banquet / Board of Directors Induction. Pictured here are most of the 2014 Board of Directors. Incoming president is Wayne Hunter. OBL meets every wednesday 7 am at the Elks Club, for more information call 804-1223.



PERSON OF THE YEAR!

Person / volunteer of the year award went to Steven Claytor. Presenting the award on left is Paul Joranlien.

Tom's Picks

and don't know who to call? Call Tom's Picks at 804-1223

January referrals from Tom's Picks include: •Firewood •Appliances

Historic Funding for Education

Legislators Applaud Governor Scott's Historic Funding for Public Schools, State Colleges and State Universities in "It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget"

Senator Bill Galvano said, "I applaud Governor Scott's continued commitment to Florida's education system. From K-12, through higher education, our students deserve the best. I am confident with continued support from the state level, our students will be well prepared for future success."

Senator John Legg said, "Governor Scott recognizes that our economic future is tied to education, and he is proposing a very wise investment in the future of our state. It is important to support our teachers and students, from kindergarten through higher education, and I applaud the Governor on today's historic announcement."

Representative Marlene O'Toole said, "I applaud the Governor for helping to improve Florida's economy by bringing new jobs to the state, which, in turn, has increased tax revenues and allowed this level of investment in education. An investment that produces higher graduation rates and better-prepared students is a smart one for the people of Florida."

Representative Elizabeth Porter said, "Governor Scott's commitment to helping improve Florida's colleges and universities shows his dedication to our future work

(Continued on Page 2)

Our Country's Priority List

By TomL

When running the country, the current administration needs to make a priority list on who needs care first. What they are doing is self-serving and backwards from what history tells us.

VETERANS #1:

They put their life on the line for their country and need to be considered first for healthcare and Social Security. Remember, a veteran in his or her 80's is still willing to fight for their country.

SENIORS #2:

Way too many people underestimate seniors. First, seniors have experienced more than the youth and can give the youth a head start, if the youth will listen. Seniors have paid into the system for years with their money and the employer's matching money. What do the politicians do but raid the SS funds and then say it's going broke. I can't say enough about seniors and veterans. THEY NEED TO COME FIRST!

CHILDREN #3:

Children are our future. They should have a chance to choose their own religion, they should be taught reading, writing and arithmetic. They should have recess (exercise) and music education. We should be teaching them how to take pride in what they do! SPORTS: Football should come last. The reason football is so important to the schools is because it is a source of revenue. Pro football is fine but don't let it injure the kids in high school and in college.

WELFARE #4:

Our country certainly does not guarantee welfare, food stamps, unemployment and/or FREE MONEY!

It broke my heart one day when I tried to give someone a job and they said "I'm sorry but I'm enjoying not working for a living!" I said the American way of life is to work for a living and they said "not anymore!" They're right, unwed mothers can have babies free, which encourages it. Illegal immigrants can come to our country and get aid for food and education when they can't get it in their own country. Our current administration is encouraging people to sign up for welfare. The land of opportunity is being fleeced by those who don't want to work and by those who

(Continued on Page 2)

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SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS IN GOD WE TRUST

Florida House of Representatives =

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



It's a New Day!
Encouraging
news came in a recent study of the
financial health of
state governments
and Florida led
among large states
when reviewing
factors of fiscal
soundness. This fis-

cal soundness has led to Florida's improved bond rating, saving millions in the cost of bonded projects across the state. It has also set up conditions for continued job growth and decline of unemployment. Latest revenue estimates for Florida's state budget projects 1.2 billion increase, opening the way for tax relief, primarily on motor vehicle fees that were dramatically increased to help cover the budget hole during recession.

Florida is proof positive "living within your means" is sound planning for economic renewal.

It's a New Day in Florida and the folks at home are doing better. And when the folks at home can do better, there is nothing a little prosperity won't help. North Central Florida is poised for continued healthy growth. We have hard-working determined folks at home to thank and we can also thank leaders who work on principles instead of pressure. We hope this will encourage many more Floridians and entrepreneurs to make 2014 the year of recovery.

Meanwhile, let's all give thanks for a year of new beginnings and may the hardships of recession make us wiser, stronger, and more determined and grateful. The American Dream of hard work and determination yielding opportunity is in renewal. Let's be thankful that it is "A New Day!"

Our Country's Priority List

(Continued from Page 1)

are not supposed to be in this country.

PRIDE has taken a backseat to those who do not want to work! Can we survive this on slot? YES by changing our way of thinking! By bringing PRIDE back to Americans!

Fight for smaller government and shorter terms in government. Make lawmakers live by the laws and perks they pass for the all of the citizens!

FIGHT FOR AMERICA, SHE IS

Historic Funding for Education

(Continued from Page 1)

force. This increase in performance funding will help to make Florida the best state in the nation for a higher education that results in a successful career."

Representative Erik Fresen said, "Today's announcement of funding for K-12 education is great news for our students and teachers. I applaud Governor Scott for his continued commitment to education."

Representative Janet Adkins said, "Education is the one gift we can give our children that no one can ever take away. The proposed increase in the K-12 Education Budget is an investment in building a strong workforce that can compete and innovate in a global economy. I believe this investment in Florida's children will serve Florida's growing demand for a skilled workforce."

Representative Jeanette Nuñez said, "The most important investment we can make is in the future generations of Floridians. I applaud Governor Scott for offering ideas to enhance our education system so we can prepare our students for success in college or a career."

Representative Michael Bileca said, "I applaud Governor Scott's commitment to both jobs and education. He truly understands that a talented and educated workforce begins in the classroom. This investment in education will help to further Florida's education achievements."



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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 In-

"Visual Emergency or Normal Visual Changes"

stitute

Life is too short

to lose sight of the big picture. As we have birthdays our eyes require more attention. For healthy eyes a complete eye examination can help protect your eyesight.

Sudden changes in your vision are not normal. A sudden visual decrease as well as a sudden onset of eye pain must be addressed immediately. If you notice an abrupt significant decrease in your vision you may require prompt attention to help ensure recovery of your sight or to help stop further decrease. Abrupt changes such as vision loss in one eye, sudden cloudy or hazy vision, severe pain, flashing lights and numerous floaters are signs of conditions that may require immediate attention and treatment.

Gradual decrease in vision or vision that fluctuates may be normal due to the aging process. An example of normal vision decrease may be difficulty in reading or working on a computer after the age of 45-50; looking down to read and not being able to see anything is not a gradual decrease. Seeing a floater or two may be perfectly normal; seeing dozens or hundreds is not a normal visual disturbance.

Your eyes and their health may be affected by many different conditions including, but not limited to, aging, medical conditions, and environment. Comprehensive eye examinations can help protect the health of your eyes but may not always prevent unwanted situations from happening. Vision can be affected by diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, poor circulation as well as many other conditions such as trauma, family history and recurring birthdays.

If you experience sudden changes in vision or sudden pain you should contact your ophthalmologist without hesitation. In some, but not all situations sudden vision loss may be recovered if treated promptly. The sooner you report your condition to your ophthalmologist, the higher your chance is of stabilizing or improving your condition.

Early detection, diagnosis and treatment can help maintain good vision for a lifetime and can be done during a complete eye examination. Some conditions require additional testing to help provide you with the best overall treatment. Don't miss a single day of good sight.

Cracker Days - 2014

It's a new year! But you are invited to return to YEASTERYEAR when life on the Florida frontier was marked by hard work. handwork, resourcefulness and patience. Come to Rainbow Springs State Park on US 41, about a mile north of Dunnellon, where the Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park (FORS) bring yesteryear to life on Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd and 23rd, from 9am to 4pm. Park Admission is \$2.00 per person with children 5 and under free.

With the beautiful Rainbow River as a backdrop, weavers, spinners, tatters, embroiderers, knitters, crocheters and rug-makers work alongside basket makers, pine needle crafters, doll makers, a potter and a cooper. Fly-tying, corn grinding, wood carving and more add to the educational focus this event provides for all ages. And don't forget to learn about Dessie, the frontier woman who hunted wild boar, deer and bear, built her own cabin and called fishing tackle boxes "hopechests".

Hop on board the tram and head out to the Cracker Camp where pioneer living and frontier skills reveal what life was like for our forebears. Hear their stories, watch biscuits being prepared in an oven over an open fire, see how butter is made learn how the candles they needed for light were made, play some pioneer games, watch the blacksmith pound iron into useful shapes and note how a broom maker constructs a good, sturdy broom for sweeping.

Do you enjoy pioneer music? Visit Felburn Pavillion and listen for strolling musicians. Hungry? Lots of good eats will be at the park concession stand, Big Lou's BBQ, Jack's Cool Treats and Ruppert's Kettle Korn and Fry Bread. Find hands-on activities interesting? Play ring toss, try your hand with a lasso, make a wagon train doll to take home while supplies last, and see how long you can keep playing bean bag double can.

Want to take a keepsake home? Visit the park gift shop, select from the clever crafts made by the park's own Crafty Ladies (they will be along the sidewalk as you approach the toll booth), and don't miss the items some of our demonstrators will be selling. Do you wish to add some plants native to Florida to your garden or yard? They, too, will be for sale along the entry walkway.

FORS and Park Staff invite you to come to Cracker Days, 2014. A dedicated group of volunteers will greet you and be on hand to help make your experience an enjoyable one. Mark your calendars -the last weekend in February!

The bird walk led by Citrus County Audubon president, Fred Hileman scheduled for February 22nd will meet this month at 8am at the Tubing Facility parking lot located a mile north of Hwy 484 on SW 180 Avenue Road.



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

310 SE Third Street | Ocala, FL 34471 | www.ocalacc.com



Tom Loury

Publisher's Notes



"Believe it or

In my opinion! I Wonder Who? I wonder Why? I Wonder if you will believe this?

How about this "Believe it or not!"

I ask myself first who is respon-

sible for the disastrous Obamacare website? Looking into it you will find a Princeton Classmate of Michelle Obama's, Toni Townes-Whitley, they were both members of the Association of the Black Princeton Alumni. Toni was the Senior Vice President of a Canadian company called CGI Federal. After President of CGI Federal became a contributor for the Obama Campaign 2012, they acquired the contract on the website which was never put up for bid!

CGI's previous experience the Canadian Company was building gun registry for the Canadian Government . When the bill got to \$100 million dollars CGI Federal was fired by the Candian Government.

Obamacare went from \$98 million dollars to where it is now \$678 million and still going up!

Here is a simple subparagraph taken out of the current healthcare act: - is there any

e it or wonder where the confusion comes in? ..

1 Subparagraph (B) of section 6724(d) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to definitions), as amended by section 1502 is amended by striking "or" at the end of clause (xxiv) and inserting "or" and by inserting after clause (xxiv) the following new clause: "(xxv) section 6056 (relating to returns relating to large employers required to report on health coverage)."

Can anyone tell me what this subparagraph means?

Illinois: More people on welfare than there are people working. In the last six months there were more deaths (murders) in Chicago than in Iraq. Chicago has one of the strictest gun laws in the USA. They can't blame the republicans - there aren't any. Obama set up the economy of Illinois and now he is fixing the US. His friends? Ryan is in prison, Blagoyic in prison, Jesse Jackson Jr who is fighting not to go to prison. Maybe the United States should throw Illinois out of the union, or can we do that?

Oklahoma passed an amendment to put the ten commandments on the front entrance of the State Capital. They passed a law to arrest all illegal Immigrants and ship them back to where they came. Oklahoma also passed a law to include DNA samples from all illegals to put into the Oklahoma database.

Oklahoma also voted to make all drivers license exams printed in English and all road signs are in English. There will be a population Explosion in Oklahoma in the future.

The President is trying to produce equal results instead of equal opportunity by squashing down the rich instead of giving the poor a lift up.

Image

By TomL

When looking in the dictionary under image there are many descriptions. The one I'm looking for is a mental picture, in other words what is your image or, more importantly, what do you think others think your image is.

PROSPECTIVE

When looking in the dictionary under prospective it says expected or anticipates. This word is underrated in the dictionary. It deserves more description.

Short story: When I worked for a corporation which employed about 400 people, the upper corporation realized that they needed to change their image starting with the employees. When you change the image of 400 people, it will help with your image in the public's eye.

Corporate started with an open door policy for employees, so that employees could communicate their frustrations of the every day job. Scenario, employee goes to Personnel Director and complains about a person, another employee or their boss. The complaint is supposed to be confidential. How can the personnel director fix the problem if he or she can't tell the person or boss who

complained and why? This is where it is mishandled most of the time.

What I'm driving at is what you are trying to achieve as your image can be changed on how you are "perceived" - new word. It comes down to how you are perceived by your employees, customers, the general public, etc. How you are perceived is how to change your image.

When you are trying to change your image ask questions of people who think the worst of you. Ask them one by one about why they think the company is their enemy. You will hear "they tried to cheat me on my hours" or "they tried to cheat me on my pay". First thing I ask is who is they? Another complaint is they tell me to do a job that is beneath me. Then I ask who is supposed to do the task? People (employees) do not think the way you do, in fact no one person thinks the same!

Remember when you want people to project the image of your company it might only take an explanation on why you did something or why you want it done your way and very important, be consistent.

What prospective customers think of your company is very important!

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for March
Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
12am, February 19th
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, February 26th

Ocala DownTown

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COLUMNS are the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the SENIORS VOICE, and are chosen to represent a diversity of views on local issues. The editorial on page 4 is the opinion of the Publisher only.

Happy Valentines Day





SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

8TH AVE - TUESDAY AND WEDNES-DAY, FEBRUARY 11TH AND 12TH, 2014 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G WASHINGTON -THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH AND 14TH ,2014 AT 1:00 PM

"EIGHT BELOW" STARRING: PAUL WALKER AND OTHERS

Walt Disney Pictures presents "EIGHT BELOW", the thrilling tale of incredible friendship between eight amazing sled dogs and their guide Jerry (Paul Walker).

Stranded in Antarctica during the most unforgiving winter on the planet, Jerry's beloved sled dogs must learn to survive together until Jerry- who will stop at nothing- rescues them. Driven by unwavering bonds of friendship, enormous belief in one another and tremendous courage, Jerry and the dogs make an incredible journey to reunite in this triumphant and inspiring actionadventure. RATED P

8TH AVE - TUESDAY AND WEDNES-DAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AND 26TH, 2014 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G WASHINGTON -THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AND 28TH ,2014 AT 1:00 PM

"THE INTERNSHIP" STARRING: VINCE VAUGH, OWEN WILSON AND OTHERS

Billy and Nick are salesmen whose careers have been demolished by the digital world. Trying to prove their relevance, they talk their way into coveted internships at Google, along with a team of bright, ambitious college students. But gaining entrance to this utopia is only half the battle. Now they must compete with a group of the nation's most elite, tech-savvy geniuses to prove that necessity really is the mother of re-invention. Rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for sexuality, some crude humor, partying and language.

Reservations must be made at the center of choice. Seating is limited to 8 persons per video.

Please call the 8th Ave Center at 629-8545 or Barbara G Washington Center at 629-8357 to reserve your seat.

COMING EVENTS FOR FEBRU-ARY 2014

INCOME TAX HELP

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting February 3rd 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 SS Card, W-2 Forms, 1099 Forms, last year's taxes, driver's li-



Christmas lights at Hommosassasa Springs State Park. A little late but the picture was special to me. The display they put on was exceptionally grand, much of the lighting reacted to the sounds of the music being played!

cense and some form of ID.

SENIOR TRIP: EARLY BIRD THEATER, CLEARWATER, FL

When: Thursday, February 27, 2014 Leave 8th Ave. Sr. Center at 8:30 AM Return 6:00 PM

Cost: \$60.00 per person (includes transportation, meal & admission)

What: Come for a comfortable bus ride and enjoy a buffet lunch and a beautiful show at the Early Bird Theater. "LEND ME A TENOR" set in 1934, II Stupendo, the

greatest tenor of his generation is supposed to appear for one night only.

The star arrives late, and through a series of hilarious mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out. In a frantic attempt to salvage the evening, the general manager persuades Max to get into his costume and fool the audience into thinking he's the world famous star. Prepaid registration is required. For more information call 629-8357.



■—ONE PERSON'S OPINION =

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor

It is time for all United States Citizens to get out and vote. If you think things are tough now just wait and see what happens if Obama's immigration bill passes. It is time we start taking care of our own here.

I don't have Obama care but I still have had to face increases in my health care due to his

It isn't fair for us to have to pay for all the illegal's that are in this country. We pay for their health care, food stamps welfare and whatever else they need. Making them legal is not going to help things. This Country is stretched beyond it's limits. This is because a man became President who doesn't have the experience nor the background or education to handle it. He believes in sharing

the wealth, taking from the rich and giving to the poor. It doesn't work that way, it has already been tried. Just when is America going to say NO?

Harry Reid, Nancy Pelosi and numerous others including republicans have lined their pockets with our money, and I don't see them sharing their wealth. President Obama has more corrupt people in the white house than anyone has ever had and they get paid with our money. He holds no one responsible for anything not even himself. Remember FAST & FURIOUS, BENGHAZI, NSA, IRS. Count the dead in Benghazi, border patrol agents and remember all this when it comes time to vote. America's voters have very short memories.

ÞΙ

To the editor

"Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom." ~Alexis de Tocqueville

Remember in October, 2008, when candidate Barack Obama promised his acolytes that they were only "five days away from * fundamentally transforming the United States of America (Preview) *"? Granted, it's taken longer than five days; but here five years into his presidency in the country's history, we can see that fundamental transformation at work just about everywhere... and now he's fundamentally transforming the military.

I apparently I don't understand the words "uniform" and "standards" The idiot who conquered up this folly does not understand the word DISIPLIN nor does he understand the results you get when there is a lack of

DISIPLIN--we'll just have a hodge-podge mix of disparate attire. Just as "multi-culture" means no unifying culture, so too we'll see the dis-unifying of the military. Divide and conquer little by little. This is not a good idea, in my opinion.

"The immediate commander can approve (at his peril) some of the religious accommodation, but some will have to be kicked up to higher headquarters." This just opens the door to feelings of resentment...and further lowing of morale.

Dear Village Spectator

I have spent eight Decembers as a renter in the Villages, Florida. I'll soon sell my home in Michigan and intend to live full time in the Villages after that.

I can come up with only one complaint about the Villages. It's the grossly inconsiderate people who take their dogs somewhere

(Continued on Page 8)

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.





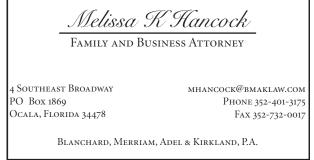




















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Lady Lake Magazine Village Spectator Ocala DownTown Seniors Voice

\blacksquare Governor Rick Scott =

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Gov. Scott: Youth Arrests Down to Lowest Rate in 30 Years_Analysis of 2012-2013 data shows juvenile arrests down 23 per-

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced since January 2011, the number of juvenile arrests has dropped 23 percent statewide and the number of youth arrested for delinquency is down 24 percent – the lowest it has been since 1984.

Governor Scott said, "Today's youth are the future workforce of Florida. By preventing juvenile delinquency, we are providing Florida's youth with more opportunities to succeed. With juvenile arrests at the lowest rate in 30 years, and a crime rate that is on path to a 43 year low, it is clear that the efforts we are taking to create a safe, opportunistic environment in Florida are working.

"But we're not done yet. We want to create an opportunity economy in Florida that will support jobs for generations to come. We'll continue working with the Department of Juvenile Justice and law enforcement officials to protect our youth and keep Florida communities safe so that every Florida family has the opportunity to live their American Dream in the Sunshine State."

Key indicators used to measure public safety and juvenile delinquency show that Florida had drastic reductions in nearly every juvenile offense category, including major offenses. This has enabled the Department of Juvenile Justice to operate with the smallest budget in 17 years. __Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secre-

tary Wansley Walters said, "At DJJ, we are committed to providing the right services, in the right place, in the right way, at the right time. Community safety is actually compromised when youth are inappropriately arrested, so we have placed an emphasis on prevention and diversion efforts. Last year alone, the state invested nearly \$11 million toward preventing juvenile delinquency, and these numbers are proof that we're making the right reforms to keep our communities safe and our youth on the path to successful adulthood."

Florida has the nation's largest, centrally organized juvenile-justice agency, providing prevention, probation, detention (short-term secure housing) and residential (long-term secure housing) services for at-risk and delinquent youth in every community across

In her quest to make Florida's juvenile justice system the best in the nation, Secretary Walters and her team developed and implemented the "Roadmap to System Excellence," which outlines the agency's strategic plan to wisely allocate its resources to the most effective programs, services, and treatments at the most impactful points along the juvenile justice continuum.

In addition to record low juvenile arrests, Florida has seen the following significant improvements since FY 2010-2011:

· Florida's juvenile crime rate is down from 59 delinquency arrests per 1,000 juveniles during FY 2010-11 to 46 delinquency arrests for every 1,000 juveniles during FY

- School-based arrests declined by 27%;
- The number of arrests involving a felony offense dropped 17 percent;
- Murder/Manslaughter arrests decreased 52 percent;
- · Admissions to secure detention declined 26 percent; and
- The number of youth in Florida transferred to adult court declined 36 percent.

Among the strategic measures in the Roadmap, DJJ seeks to shift residential resources to community-based interventions and realign existing resources to increase the availability of transitional services, such as services for vocational programming, employment, education, family support, transitional housing, and transportation.

Walters added, "Deterring youth from the juvenile justice system not only saves taxpayer dollars, it affords our state's youth more opportunities to chase their dreams and when our state's children succeed, we all reap the benefits."

Mary Marx, President and CEO, PACE

Center for Girls, Inc. said, "As these dramatic declines in rates of arrests for girls across our state demonstrate, stemming the tide of girls' involvement in the juvenile justice system required a commitment to expanding community prevention and front-end diversion programs and services. PACE is a nationally recognized leader in helping keep girls out of this system and we are proud to be part of the continuum of programs and services committed to improving the lives of girls and young women across our state."

Stacy Gromatski, president and CEO, Florida Network of Family Services said, "These outstanding declines in juvenile delinguency validate the story prevention advocates have been telling for years. When we reach kids early, we have an opportunity to make a difference and truly change the entire course of their lives. I commend DJJ Secretary Walters and Gov. Rick Scott for focusing on at-risk youth and I am thrilled that the Florida Network could be part of the



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CEP Business Connection

Last month, we began to relay highlights of the CEP's great first year. The previous column listed a few of the successes in our Business Attraction and Business Retention efforts. This month, we will look at Business Creation, Business Services and Business Advocacy and provide a glimpse of what is to come in 2014.

Business Creation

Growing and assisting entrepreneurs is a unique aspect of our efforts to create and retain jobs. This community has a strong legacy of growing companies and we want to nurture that effort into the future. The Power Plant Business Incubator has focused on creating a system of metrics to both evaluate innovative would be tenants and to assist in bringing them to the end goal—successful graduation. This year we saw seven residents successfully graduate with all of the businesses continuing to grow and employ people in our community. In fact, those businesses now employ nearly 60 people in our community!

Additionally, we added staff to provide greater technical assistance to both our residents and any entrepreneur in our community. Part of that growth includes the addition of a new microloan program to provide additional capital to entrepreneurs. With this loan, the Ocala Area Microloan Fund, we can make working capital and inventory loans to compliment traditional financing. The Microloan can go up to \$50,000 but we anticipate most loans being in the \$10,000 range.

Business Services

Our efforts in Business Services is focused on three main areas: Talent Development, Networking, and Business Education. In each sector we have a number of different programs all focused on providing a return on our partners' investments and helping to create or retain jobs.

Some of the most well-known CEP programs are offered through our Talent Development initiative. Talent Development is composed of our Leadership Ocala Marion (which saw Class XXVII); Leadership Ocala Marion Youth (this year's class is composed of 40 outstanding juniors selected from nearly 100 applicants); Emerging Leaders of Ocala (our dynamic young professionals); and, Retired Professionals and Executives Group.

We polled our partners early last year and asked why they are a part of the CEP. Overwhelmingly, they told us it was to grow their businesses through networking. We took this data seriously, and now attempt to include a networking component into every CEP event. Our NetWorks group have doubled in numbers (4 groups) and participants (60+) with plans to add several more. However, our premier (and the community's) networking event continues to be Business After Hours which experienced a phenomenal year. For the first time ever, we had two BAHs attract more than 500 attendees and total attendance at these monthly events exceeded 3200.

Finally, our Business Education initiative has been composed of two primary programs: TuesdayTalks and special topics. The second and fourth Tuesday of each month, the CEP hosted two sessions (morning and afternoon) of topic of interest to our business partners. More than 500 partners attended this sessions in 2013. Rasmussen College will be our sponsor for this series in 2014.

Business Advocacy

This is the newest aspect of the CEP's efforts but probably one of the most exciting. In the fall the CEP rolled out its new monthly breakfast, exCEPtional mornings. This partner breakfast aims to bring speakers of sig-

nificance to the business community to the area. We want our partners to hear directly from these leaders and decision-makers but for these speakers to also see all that is going on in our community. You will be hearing more in coming months about two exciting opportunities: Marion County Day in Tallahassee in March and a Washington DC fly-in in the fall.

The CEP had a great year in 2013 in laying the groundwork for efforts to keep our community Moving Forward. The momentum will not stop there and we look forward to sharing more information and opportunities as we move through 2014 and beyond.

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 6)

other than they're own property or the provided dog parks to deposit their daily "business".

In conjunction with the sanitation and aesthetics issues involved with dog droppings along the streets and in community areas. It's a matter of consideration for other residents. After all, once the dog's walks away from the deposit, how much difference is there between that deposit and, oh let's say, a human one?

When approach on this subject, some say they have to take their dog for a "walk". But

the "walk" ends as soon as the dog does his/ her business somewhere other than at home. Other owners reply, "I pick it up". If picking it up makes everything fine, why not pick it up from their own property? Further, they can't pickup enough of it to prevent that spot becoming a bulletin board for other dogs. Many of us feel that dogs should be taught to take care of the function at home before the walk.

In the event I ever get to live permanently in the Villages, I will be making a big "stink" about this.

Б



HEALTHIER SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART

(Family Features) It's easy to share in the fun of Valentine's Day by serving those you love sweet treats that are a healthier alternative to ordinary, heart-shaped confections.

Forget the expensive flowers, wines and chocolates. To really show you care, be a cupid and give your sweetie healthy, delicious treats that feature juicy watermelon. Naturally dressed in the holiday's hue of vibrant red, using this fabulous fruit in recipes adds color to the spread of any Valentine's Day party, whether large or intimate.

Mouthwatering watermelon treats

For an elegant, upscale treat, serve Watermelon Petit Fours, which feature sweet watermelon, candied almonds and is topped with your favorite decadent frosting. Get the kids in the kitchen with Watermelon Cupcakes for a new take on the beloved classic. Served with pineapple cream cheese frosting, kids will love helping you decorate these darling delights.

If you really want to make their hearts skip a beat, carve an adorable

Lips and Love Basket. Fill it with all of your sweetie's favorite fruits for a fresh, flavorful display they'll devour in a heartbeat. Remember, nothing shows your love more than edible gifts crafted by hand. For more sweet ideas, visit www.watermelon.org.

Hearts love watermelon

Beyond adding color and variety to your family's diet, watermelon has other great benefits. Here are a couple of these heart-healthy reasons:

- Fresh watermelon is certified by the American Heart Association's Heart Checkmark program as being low in saturated fat and cholesterol.
- Watermelon is the primary source of an amino acid called citrulline found in fruits and vegetables. Citrulline can

Lips and Love Basket. Fill it with all help maintain blood flow within the of your sweetie's favorite fruits for a heart and cardiovascular function.

Bonus benefits

Your sweetie will love that they can indulge in the sweetness of the holiday without the guilt or inflated waistline caused by traditional Valentine's Day treats. A naturally low-calorie option, watermelon also boasts the following benefits:

- Vitamin A: Known to enhance eye health and boost immunity by enhancing the infection-fighting actions of white blood cells.
- Vitamin B6: Helps the immune system produce antibodies which fight diseases.

(Continued on Page 10)

Brody

By TomL

Christmas season two years ago I was blow away by a picture of a young man reading our newspaper. The cutline back then read "Brody Reads Our Paper." Commissioner Dan Vincent took Grandson Brody, age 2-1/2, to the Town Hall to watch the school children decorate the Christmas tree. Brody's interest was only in the Lady Lake Magazine. Photos by Sharon Vincent, grandmother will cause you to crack a smile. Guess starting them young could be a great way to increase the readership in the publication. Sharon and Brody say "we're certainly sold!"

Fast forward two years and guess what? I ran into Brody at a ribbon cutting just before Christmas, now he is two years older, what a handsome guy. I showed Brody his picture on an ad we have been running. I said "you're famous", he said "yes, I'm going to cut my picture out and take it to school." Grandmother reminded Brody next week was the P's, I guess they learn a letter each week and how to use it. We started listing them paper, picture, print, photo and suggesting many of the possibilities. It was sure good to see Brody, Dan Vincent and Sharon Vincent, Brody's grandparents. Thanks for letting us use his picture in our papers.





HEALTHIER SWEETS FOR YOUR SWEETHEART

(Continued from Page 9)

• Vitamin C: Boosts the immune system's defenses against infections and viruses. It also protects the body from harmful free radicals which accelerate aging.

Lips and Love Basket

1 to 2 long, oval-shaped seedless watermelons

Cutting board Green dry erase marker Kitchen and paring knives Melon baller Assorted cookie cutters (X, O and heart shapes), if de-

Wooden skewers
Toothpicks
Strawberries
Fruits to make
fruit salad filling
Large bowl and



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spoon

Wash watermelon under cool running water and pat dry. On cutting

board, place watermelon on its side and cut off 1/4 to 1/2 inch from stem end being careful not to cut too deep into white part of rind to provide sturdy base.

With marker, draw scalloped line around width of middle of watermelon.

Use paring knife to cut along marker line, then separate the two halves. Use melon baller to scoop out watermelon for your base.

Cut top half of watermelon in half and use dry erase marker to draw large set of lips on one half. Use paring knife to cut out lips. Once you have general shape, carefully carve away rind. Use paring knife to shape lips into more finished look.

Cut remaining 1/4-inch-thick slices and cut hearts, X's, O's or other shapes, discarding rind.

Attach lips to top of base using wooden skewers and toothpicks.

Slice strawberries lengthwise into 1/4-inch slices, keeping strawberry tops on for decoration, if desired. Attach slice of strawberry with green top to center of each scallop using toothpick. Use rest of strawberry slices in fruit salad for fruit bowl.



Place fruit bowl on serving platter, fill with fruit salad and garnish with slices of fruit cut into hearts, X's and O's, if desired.



Watermelon Cupcakes

Yield: 8 servings

8 cupcake liners

8 cupcake shaped pieces of seedless watermelon

2 cups pineapple cream cheese frosting

Sprinkles for garnish

Place liners in 8-cup cupcake tin. Cut 3-inch-thick slices of seedless watermelon. Cut round cupcake-sized pieces from slices. Put watermelon cupcake in each liner. Place dollop of frosting on each cupcake. Decorate as desired with sprinkles.

Watermelon Petit Fours

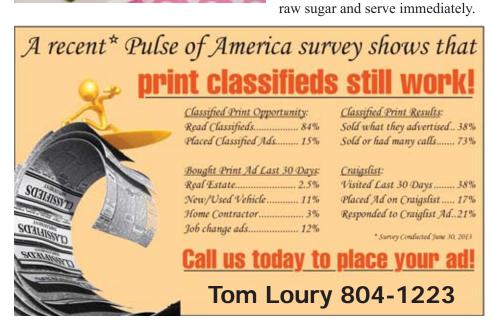
Yield: 12 servings

12 (3-inch) cubes of seedless water-melon

3/4 cup frosting 12 candied almonds

Sugar in the Raw, for sprinkling

Arrange watermelon cubes on serving platter. Place frosting in zipper bag and trim off bit of one bottom corner. Decoratively pipe frosting onto each watermelon cube. Place almond at top of frosting on each petit four. Sprinkle with



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