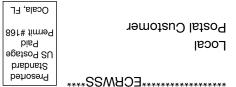


The 15th semi-annual Senior Fishing Derby went perfect. The weather was great and there were about 150 attending. The biggest fish went to Cleve Parker and the oldest fisherman lady was Marie Garry at 102 years young. Sponsors were Audibel Hearing, CarePlus Ins, Coventry Heath Care, Nelsons Lawn Care, and Cunningham Funeral Home. The cooking was done by Dustin Echols of Clay Electric. Coordinators of the event were Grace Huffman of the City Parks and Recreation and overseeing the cooking and the event was Dianne Leaf.

This writer always gets excited when I see people in wheelchairs getting a chance to fish. They get out in the fresh air, sunshine, eat good hot food picnic style and socialize a little. It's creating memories that are really neat. The fishing was made better this year by being able to fish off the brand new dock the city recently built. Watch for another fishing Derby in about six months.

Thousands showed up Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park in Ocala, FL to remember and honor our brave soldiers. Flags were displayed and the history was told about how the American Flag came about. Some of our representatives spoke, we pledged allegiance to the flag, and we prayed over our troops. . "It was truly a day to remember."

Tom's Picks: Referred plumber. I highly recommend Mojo's for lunch.





Hey Dude

TomI

During an interview on national television a White House representative answers a question with "Hey Dude, that was two years ago. With all the government press releases we send out every day I can't remember the exact wording."

Hey Dude? Is that what our government is coming down to? Next it will be hey that's rad or hey that's sick. I might butcher the English language sometimes but I don't hold a candle to this guy who is in an important position in our government.

I decided to look up the word Dude in Websters book of information. It says "an over dressed, affected man; Dandy or dudish." I thought dude was a description of a city guy who goes to the country or to a ranch setting and looks out of place.

I hope all you Dudes and Dudets (women) are registered to vote and research the difference in parties and who is the president and vice president.

God help us!

Governor Scott Discovers Secret Waiting List

Governor Rick Scott: Discovery of a Secret Waiting List at a VA Hospital in Florida is Appalling

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Rick Scott released the following statement about the news that three employees from the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville have been placed on administrative leave after a secret waiting list was discovered. On April 14, the Agency for Health Care Administration's inspectors attempted to visit the same VA hospital—they entered at 10:30am and left at 11:07am, having not been able to review any documents.

"I am appalled to learn that Florida's brave veterans have been unnecessarily forced to wait for care they deserve to have provided timely. The discovery of a secret waiting list further heightens my concerns about the federal VA hospital system and how it is failing Florida's veterans. Given this news, I am asking the Agency for Health Care Administration's inspectors to attempt a revisit at the VA hospital in Gainesville.

"Earlier this week, I called for an independent thorough analysis and I renew that call today. The VA has repeatedly denied Florida's experienced hospital inspectors and the Freedom of Information Act request for documentation has yet to be acknowledged. I will continue to focus a light on concerns at the VA until they are willing to be transparent. I have met a lot of public servants that work in VA hospitals who care about our heroes, but we must continue to call for accountability from their leadership. The men and women who have fought to defend our county and our freedom deserve more from the VA system."

PUBLISHERS NOTE!

In all fairness I meet a lot of veterans who say the Veterans Hospital does a great job for them, most who use it say that. But the few that say they don't get the care they need is as important! As you can see by the Governor's news release there appears to be a smoking gun.

TomL

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

SUPPORT OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS IN GOD WE TRUST

■ Brett Bonham, BC-HIS =

HEARING MATTERS



Take this test:

Do people say you play the TV is too loud?

Do you find yourself asking people to repeat themselves?

Do you find it difficult to follow a conversation in a

noisy environment?

Do you experience ringing in your ears?

Do others tell you they think you have a problem?

Like other annual health checks, annual hearing examinations are another part of

protecting your health. The Journal of the American Medical Association states that more people suffer from hearing loss than any other serious ailment. So why is it that many people get their checkups for their eyes, teeth, skin, heart, etc...but just refuse to go for a hearing test that is FREE!

It is so easy to have a free hearing test and just get the information. Did you know that healthy hearing promotes communication, helping to keep you close to those you love? Like the famous Nike slogan "Just do it!", you should just get a free hearing test.

Your friends and family will be glad you did. But there are more important reasons for safeguarding your hearing health. A study by Johns Hopkins University showed significant correlation between the effects of hearing loss and dementia. Other effects of hearing loss including withdrawal, depression, paranoia, and anger, causing unnecessary strain on relationships. Who wants to risk that?

Another health link has been found linking diabetes and hearing loss. Hearing loss maybe an under recognized complication of diabetes. Patients with diabetes are more than twice as likely as those without the disease to have hearing loss according to a recent national Institute of health study. Overall, more than 40% of the people with diabetes in the study had some degree of hearing loss.

People with diabetes should ask their doctors to check their hearing. This should be routine. A hearing check can be invaluable in identifying diabetic patients with potential hearing loss giving them an opportu-

nity to receive the treatment they need. Not to mention to relieve other family members from a TV too loud or streaming their vocal chords to yell.

A hearing loss is much more obvious than a discrete hearing aid. Studies by Better Hearing Institute and others show that people with untreated hearing loss have a lower quality of life and even earn less than people with normal hearing or people who have treated their hearing loss by using hearing aids. Modern hearing aids use digital technology and can help most people with hearing loss. There is even new technology to stream calls from your Iphone, FaceTime, music and more directly to your Hearing Aid using Blur Tooth 4.0 Wireless technology.

A special note for those that have ringing in their ears: You no doubt have been told for years there is no cure for Tinnitus. Starkey, our parent company says that is true, but THERE IS RELIEF...AWARD WINNING RELIEF. TAKE CONTROL: If you've tried other tinnitus relief options without success, or are finally ready to stop letting the ringing in your ears take over your life, you owe it to yourself to seek a real solution. A hearing health professional in one of our Audibel offices can give you a free tinnitus inventory test and evaluation.

The long and the short of it is just so simple, free hearing test can be the best indicator for your possible hearing loss so you know for sure.

About the author:

Brett Bonham is a Board Certified Hearing Specialist/ owner of six locations in Ocala, Inverness, Homosassa, Dunnellon, the Villages and Lady Lake. His first office has served Ocala for nearly 20 years. Brett fully embraces the Audibel Platinum promise to give free adjustments and service to any Audibel patient from any of their 2000 nationwide locations. Hearing tests are always FREE at his locations and they support the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Website: AudibelNorthCentralFlorida.com and phone number (toll free) 855-321-HEAR (4327)

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We are one of three 501c3 **SOUP KITCHEN** ministries in Marion County feeding anyone who needs food on every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Our clients have a choice from our hot food line, cold food line and also our desert line.

We also have a choice food pantry where our clients can chose the canned food they want once every 30 days.

We have less waste than handing out bags of food.

We are located at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 3803 NE 7th St. Ocala, FL.

We will feed around 60,000 meals this year.

We will give away around 350,000 lbs of food also this year.

What do we need?

We are looking for Church Partners to help sponsor the ministry as well as individual volunteers to serve our clients. We are looking for people to join us in our campaign \$10 by 1,000 people donating once a month.

A lb of food costs around \$.15 and \$10 a month will provide around 67 lbs of food.

You can donate through paypal, at mygatewaytohope.org or by mail.

However you are not limited to give \$10. We will take any amount and be grateful. We also need your prayers.

What else can you do?

Come have a meal with us and we will give you a tour of our facility.

What other services do we offer?

Help from PUP Medicare Advantage, helping veterans, Lions Club vision check, helping people access food stamps and medicaid.

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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

"Swimmers" Eyes"

Many patients ask if swimming

can damage their eyes. Although swimming poses no danger to your eyes, the chemicals in pool water, as well as exposure to the sun and wind may dry and irritate your eyes. Fortunately, there are some simple things you can do that will make your outside activities more enjoyable.

Wearing sunglasses will help block glare, wind, and small particles in the air. While most sunglasses will offer some type of protection, they are not all the same. When looking for a pair of sunglasses, you should always look for UV "A" and UV "B" protection, to help block out harmful ultraviolet

rays.

If your eyes become irritated from swimming, you can use an over-the-counter artificial tear. These are drops that help lubricate your eyes. They may be used 4 to 6 times daily. In many cases, they will refresh your eyes and clear up irritation from pool chemicals and wind. There are a number of artificial tears on the market so you may have to try different ones to find one that works best for you. If the drops you use burn or further irritate your eye; discontinue using the drop immediately.

If you have chronic eye irritation which worsens when you are exposed to a change in the environment you should always be evaluated by your ophthalmologist.

Early detection diagnosis and treatment can help maintain good vision for a lifetime. Don't miss a single day of good sight. Complete eye examinations are important for everyone. For more information feel free to contact us at 352-237-8400 or 800-521-6028. You may also visit us on the web at www.centralfloridaeye.com.



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

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Men in Uniform!

Staff writer from the net.

In looking back at presidents that served in the American Military we had IKE, JFK, LBJ, NIXON, FORD, CARTER, RAGAN, BUSH, GW BUSH, on the other hand CLIN-TON and OBAMA did not serve! The only uniform Clinton wore was his High School band uniform and Obama wore his union organizers suit. These last two guys are the trophy winning biggest liars our nation has ever seen! I ask how we can do business like this. The left would have us think they can come up with an honest candidate.

We have the same problem with a few of the Republican candidates, Marco Rubio for one. He gain a big pinoceo with me personally. Christ Cristie and the Bridgegate thing and also the way he acted when he was trying to get Obama to claim New Jersey a disaster area. Obama could not deny that the state was hit hard and the Government had

We need a President that will thinks outside the government thought process, you know a deal for a deal. A president that can stop all the wheeling and dealing and pass laws that says when passing a bill there will be nothing attached to it.

I'm wondering about this brain surgeon Ben Carson, he seems to think things through with common sense and was brought up with common values. Maybe Team him up with Paul Ryan. Maybe Sara Palan and Paul Ryan. That would be great for the Iranians to have to negotiate with a woman!

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Tom Loury

Publisher's Notes



Creating a Social State. Saul David Alinsky was an American community organizer and writer. In his writings he wrote the rules to create a social state. First off you must get control of the people, he

writes, and here is how you do it.

Healthcare: if you have mandatory

healthcare people are totally dependent on the Government because sooner or later everyone will be on it...PERIOD!

Poverty: Alinsky's thoughts were, if you have poverty, poor people won't fight back for fear they won't get their monthly check.

Debt: If you increase the debt you can increase taxes and more poverty will follow.

Gun Control: If you remove the tool Americans have to defend themselves you can then declare a police state.

Welfare: If you take control of every aspect of the Americans lives, if the govern-

ment is feeding you, housing you and giving living expenses, are you going submit? Are going to take them on?

Education: If you shut down the News Media, TV stations, radio, newspapers and they control what you see and hear they will control your life. Then they start teaching the children so the coming generations will submit

Religion: Take God out of all meetings, schools, government meetings and make God invisible to the people. The belief is that religion will become weak.

Class Warfare: Divide poor from the wealthy, black from the white creating social and economic warfare. Then they can easily tax the wealthy to support the poor.

IN MY OPINION

We are well on our way with our current president. It does not scare me, it infuriates me. I have faith in the American people and God that they will squash this movement. What was our president known for? Community organizer who studied Saul David Alinsky's writings. This president will go down in history as the worst there ever was and the most corrupt. He has set our country back years. What makes people like him think the American people want him to impose his way of thinking on us? Saul Alinsky survived and wrote because of the Constitution of the United States of America, freedom of thought, speech, of press, FREEDOM to say and do as he wished. In a Social State this would not exist!

What is really frustrating is we have people in this country that don't know who the president or vice president is. Do you know what one of the first questions they ask when

they are trying to decide if a person is competent? Yes who is the president? If a person is being deemed incompetent because they don't know who the president is, what does that say about the people on the street when they don't know who the president is? How frustrated does that make the average American? Should these people be allowed to vote?

I opened a fortune cookie the other day and my fortune read "something thrilling is about to happen to you." The phone rang one day last week and it was a young girl on the other end thanking me for putting in the papers "Support our wounded Warrior", that was thrilling, it happened. I many times run pictures on the front page or in the papers and very seldom it is mentioned, so for a high school student to do that is thrilling

Our federal Government sent two hundred agents / snipers to intimidate a cattle rancher and at the same time released 36,000 known criminal illegal aliens into our country.

Jesse Jackson, Jr. to receive \$8,700 Per Month in Disability, Plus a \$45,000/yr Pension while In Prison.

Retired military personnel who go to prison lose their retirement. Jesse Jackson, Jr. is rewarded.

Last but not least: Only in America... could the rich people - who pay 86% of all income taxes - be accused of not paying their fair share by people who are not paying any income taxes at all.



Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for July
Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
12am, June 18th
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, June 25th

Ocala DownTown

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Florida House of Representatives =

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



One of the questions asked entering the 2014 Legislative Session was: would Florida's self-defense statute be repealed or significantly diminished? Bills were filed, debates began, press confer-

ences presented, and a repeal bill was heard with lengthy public comment and opportunity for amendments.

At the end of the day, legislators, by their vote, protected your right to defend yourself and others under violent attack and rejected

efforts to repeal or diminish the statute. Since enacted in 2005, violent crime rates have diminished, not increased, though some narratives will try to paint a different picture.

What the real numbers show is that when you empower law abiding citizens to take responsibility for stopping violent offenders, they can, they will, and they did. What has been clarified in this discussion is that this statute does not give anyone the authority to pursue, confront, or provoke others.

Some recent high profile cases never claimed stand your ground defense. Many who have tried to claim such a defense have been denied. The Second Amendment to the US Constitution makes clear that no government shall infringe on your right to keep

and bear arms for your protection. It is not a privilege, like driving privileges. It is a constitutionally protected right. It is also a great responsibility with much liability for your actions. For this reason we have over 20,000 laws guiding how we exercise this right in this country.

Our founders knew this right would protect all others and we would be a safer free society with these protections. But the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. The Florida Legislature stood firm for the cause of freedom

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Governor Rick Scott =

FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Governor Scott Responds to Report of Death Due to Improper Care at Bay Pines VA Hospital

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott made the following statement after news reports indicated that a veteran died of bladder cancer that was misdiagnosed and mistreated at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center in Bay Pines. State hospital inspectors were turned away at the Bay Pines facility last month after Governor Scott ordered state inspections of VA hospitals in Florida.

Governor Scott said, "There's no question that the VA is failing to keep their promises to the men and women who served our country. This case demonstrates that the problems we've seen at VA hospitals are institutional and have been going on far too long. We learn of more preventable tragedies and mistreatment at VA hospitals every day, but there is no evidence that President Obama understands the scope of this problem. For the sake of our veterans. Secretary Shinseki must resign so we can immediately begin cleaning up the mess at the VA and make sure that our heroes get the care they need. His resignation will be just the beginning of much-needed reforms."

Governor Scott Appoints Judge Brian D. Lambert to the Fifth District Court of Appeal

Tallahassee, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Judge Brian D. Lambert to the Fifth District Court of Appeal

Lambert, 57, of Ocala, has served as a circuit judge on the Fifth Judicial Circuit since 2000. He has served as an associate judge on the Fifth District Court of Appeal on several occasions. Prior to his appointment to the Circuit bench, Judge Lambert was a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer, practicing primarily insurance defense and construction litigation. Lambert graduated Cum Laude from Eastern Michigan University, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He received his law degree from the University of Florida in 1981. He will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Jacqueline R. Griffin.

Governor Rick Scott said, "With more than fourteen years of service on the Fifth Judicial Circuit bench, Judge Lambert has a well-deserved reputation as a respected jurist and has demonstrated the knowledge and skill necessary to serve Florida's citizens. I am certain he will remain committed to the rule of law as an appellate judge."

Memorial Day at Veterans Memorial Park





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■—ONE PERSON'S OPINION =

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTER

It is amazing how many letters are focused on "Gimme". It seems everyone has a need, yes most of them are necessary, Gay rights, discrimination, and so on, but I think we all need to STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN, to what is happening to our Country while we wait with our hands out for more. We have opened our borders to the tired, hungry and down trodden for way too long, look at what is happening around us. We need to fix our Country now. We need to unite and set America Free again.

We have become a nation of thin skinned whiners, I have never seen so much antagonism toward one another. The unions have turned our teachers into their own sycophants. You see people wanting a min. wage increase to \$15.00 an hour to flip hamburgers get real, can't they see what will happen. The ones out there protesting in front of McDonalds are supplied by the unions signs and all even the rain ponchos they wear, are the unions paying them \$15.00 an hour to protest?

My God what is happening? Imagine cutting our Military to the bones when there are so many countries that hate us and want nothing more than to see us fail. We use to be respected if nothing else. What can you expect when the people who have come here wave the flags of the country they left or want the laws they left behind?

Dr. Robert Petzel is resigning just before he retires, so I guess he gets a slap on the wrist, He should be stripped of all his benefits and even serve a little time for his crime against our Veterans. He is doing this to take some of the heat off Mr. Shinseki who also should be fired. Resigning with all the benefits is not punishment for what they have perpetrated on our Veterans they should all be fired.

Mr. Holder is not going to investigate this! Then he should also be impeached and replaced with someone who has the backbone to do his job. How could we believe anything that he has to say.

We have a President who really doesn't know what he is doing, his minions he handpicked (former weathermen and who knows what else) he has filled the White House with his sycophants'. The Senate and the House need to be rid of the senile old men that can't say No and replaced with people who really care about the Country. It isn't about Democrats or Republicans any more it is about turning this country into A Socialistic Nation. I do believe if we ever needed a Third Party it is now. We need to recover our Pride and our respect soon. Mr Putin seems like a nice man but then so did Mr. Obama.

P. L.

Dear Tom Loury

Whoopi Goldberg is a racist, uncouth,

and not very bright. She just lit into and dissed Ben Carson a black presidential hopeful. Her bile runneth over against the man, because he is not a raving liberal. He is a common sense candidate, and {the biggie} not a politician.

The Democratic Party is the party of hate. It took 8 and a half decades for people to tell me to my face that they 'hate me', and they do not want to speak or listen to me, Dialog, and discussion are out of the question, and I should "shut up". Trying to quote from the 5 books I read last week holds no weight with useful idiots. They know it all, even though they have never cracked a book. Books are available for a reason. When you read everything from extreme left to right, and middle, you just might learn a thing or two.

Does Whoopie not realize how much she has achieved under this unfair system? What more does she want? Only Oprah has eclipsed her in fame, and money. She has reaped the benefits of this unfair system for decades. Only in America could she have enjoyed that level of success. When is enough, enough?

I am discriminated against. I want her fame and fortune handed to me. My I.Q exceeds her's, the president's, and the first lady's. Why them? Why not me? I do not whine, whine, whine. I enjoy life, and do not spend my time looking for reasons to hate.

Life is not perfect. We do the best we can, and in America we are to be left alone doing it. Reap what you sow, not what the government sows. Where is that redress department of the government, I hear so much about? We have all had hard patches in our lives. WE want our redress, too. My father sat, and cried when he could not buy food for us to eat. I am still here. Life is not easy or fair. We all want an easy path. Life does not work like that

Granted some find ways to milk, and distort the system. But that must be addressed, and corrected.

It is government meddling that makes things even more unfair. Get the government out of the way, with its meddlesome laws and regulations, and let the people soar. WE can do it. A few do-gooders will have to go as well. Let common sense and fairness prevail.

I think it would be entirely fair if I were to replace Whoopi on her television show. She has had it long enough, my turn.

What should I do the next time a liberal says they "hate me"?

And they refuse to crack a book? Or listen to a word, and begin their mantra chant. The chants replace common sense, and dialog. Is that a recipe for solutions? Help me I need a snappy comeback!

D. I. L.

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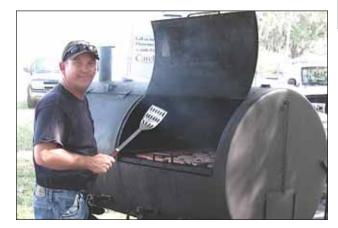
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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES FOR JUNE 2014

8th AVENUE * TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH AND 11TH, 2014 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G WASHINGTON * THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH AND 13TH, 2014 AT 1:00 PM

"SAVING MR. BANKS" STARRING: EMMA THOMPSON, TOM HANKS, COLIN FARRELL, JASON SCHWARTZ-MAN, BRADLEY WHITFORD AND OTHERS

Walt Disney spent 20 years in pursuit of the film rights to P. L. Travers' popular novel "Mary Poppins". When Travers travels from London to Hollywood in 1961 to finally discuss Disney's desire to bring her beloved character to the motion picture screen, Disney meets a prim, un-compromising sexagenarian not only suspect of the impresario's concept for the film, but a woman struggling with her own past. During her stay in California, Travers reflects on her childhood in 1906 Australia, a trying time for her family that not only molded her aspirations to write, but one that also inspired the characters in her 1934 book. None more so than the one person whom she loved and admired more than any other—her caring father, Travers Goff, a tormented banker who, before his untimely death that same year, instills the youngster with both affection and enlightenment (and who would be the muse for the

story's patriarch, Mr. Banks, the sole character that the famous nanny comes to aid). While reluctant to grant Disney the film rights, Travers comes to realize that the acclaimed Hollywood storyteller has his own motives for wanting to make the film-which, like the author's, hint at the relationship he shared with his own father. RATED PG 13

8th AVENUE * TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH AND 25TH, 2014 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G WASHINGTON * THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH AND 27TH, 2014 AT 1:00 PM

PHILOMENA STARRING: JUDI DENCH. STEVE COOGAN. ANN MAXWELL MARTIN, MARE WIN-MICHELLE FAIRLEY NINGHAM. Philomena Lee, an Irishwoman in her 70s, became pregnant as a teenager in 1952. Her family abandoned her out of shame and sent her to a convent, where, along with other young girls in the same predicament, she was regarded as a "fallen woman". Three years later, the nuns made her give up her son Anthony, to be sold for adoption in America. Lee, who was forced to sign a document promising "never to seek to know" what happened to her son, later moved to England where she married and had a family. Through a lucky set of circumstances she happens to meet Martin Sixsmith, an ex-BBC reporter. When Philomena tells Martin

about her long search for her son, he realizes that hers is a remarkable story. He arranges for the two of them to visit the U. S. to find out what happened to Anthony. RATED PG 13

COMING EVENTS FOR JUNE 2014 AQUASIZE: WATER AEROBICS FOR ADULTS

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th & 26th Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8th, 10th, 15th. 17th, 22nd, 24th 29th & 31st

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Cost: \$30.00 per participant for 8 ses-

Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Oc-

What: Class activities include: stretching, cardio, toning, strength training, and abdominal workouts. Buoyancy equipment is used. Modifications will be demonstrated for all fitness levels. 18+ For more information, please call Diane at 401-3916.

AQUABILITY

When: Mondays, June 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd

Tuesdays, June 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th Thursdays, June 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Time: Mondays & Tuesdays, 4:30 to 5:30 PM OR 5:30 to 6:30 PM Thursdays, 5:30 to 6:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00 per person per 4 week session

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

What: An Adaptive Aquatic Program for individuals with Disabilities of All Ages. For more information and registration, please call Diane at 352-401-3916

SENIOR TRIP: BARBARA LEE SCENIC CRUISE

When: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 Leave 8th Ave. Sr. Center 8:30 AM Return 6:30 PM

Where: Sanford, Florida

Cost: \$67.00 per person Includes: transportation, meal & admission

What: From its home port on Lake Monroe is charming downtown Sanford, the Barbara-Lee cruises the St. Johns, serving superior food, live music and dancing. You'll also get close-up views of the area's abundant wildlife. A great experience for everyone. Pre-paid registration is required. Seating is limited to 45 persons. For more information please call Grace at 629-8357.

BUY LOCAL



Unemployment Rate

OCALA, Fla. (May 16, 2014) – The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion region was 6.7 percent in April, down 0.8 percentage points from March, 1.4 percent lower than the same time last year, and the lowest since spring 2008. Out of a labor force of 201,938 there were 13,454 unemployed, a drop of 1,793 over the month and 3,070 fewer than April 2013.

The employment summary, released today by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, indicated that there were no counties with double-digit unemployment rates in April and that all 67 counties experienced drops in unemployment rates.

In terms of over-the-year job growth, all of Florida's metropolitan areas experienced gains except for Ocala, which lost 200 jobs.

"We lost Ocala this time to a small amount, negative 0.2 percent, but all other metros were positive," said Rebecca Rust, DEO's chief economist. "Ocala had the slowest job growth rate because it was the only one to lose jobs over the year."

Much of that was due to losses in government jobs which lost 400 jobs since April 2013

The April unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, were 6.6 percent for Marion County, the 12th highest rate in the state but the county's lowest since May 2008 when the rate was 6.8 percent; 6.9 percent for Citrus County, down 0.8 percent over the month and the lowest since 6.6 percent in March 2008; and 6.4 percent in Levy Coun-

ty, down 0.8 percentage points and the lowest since its 7.0 percent rate in June 2008. Local rates are not seasonally adjusted. Florida's seasonally adjusted rate is 6.2 percent and the non-adjusted rate is 5.7 percent. The national rate, adjusted, is 6.3 percent and non-adjusted is 5.9 percent.

All three counties in the local workforce development region experienced drops in the number of jobless, while other key indicators were mixed. Marion County was the only county to post an increase in the number of employed over the month, while Citrus County's employed dropped by 85 and there was no charge reported for Levy County. Over the month, the labor force fell in all three counties as well.

Here's how the numbers break down for each county in the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion region:

- Citrus County's labor force decreased by 589 over the month to 53,848 almost the same gain from the previous month the number of employed fell slightly by 85 to 50,134 and the number of those without jobs dropped by 504 to 3,714. The unemployment rate in April 2013 was 8.2 percent when there were 858 more unemployed.
- Levy County's labor force and number of unemployed fell by 129 the exact number of the previous month's labor force expansion and there was no change in the number of employed, which remained at 15,082. Over the year, the number of employed has increased by 217 and there are

269 fewer jobless than when the unemployment rate was 8.1 percent.

• Marion County's labor force shrank by 584 to 131,975, the number of employed increased by 576 and those without jobs fell by 1,160 to 8,707, a drop of 1,943 over the year when the unemployment rate was 8.0 percent. Also, over the year, the number of those with jobs increased by 1,378.

For the third consecutive month, Citrus County held the ninth highest unemployment rate in the state, Marion County was 12th and Levy County held at 20th.

The Ocala metropolitan statistical area had the fourth highest unemployment rate among Florida metro areas behind Palm Coast (8.3 percent), Sebastian-Vero Beach (6.9 percent), and Port St. Lucie (6.8 percent).

Nonagricultural employment for the Ocala MSA was 92,800, the same as in March and a drop of 200 jobs over the year for a growth rate of -0.2 percent compared to the state job growth rate of 3.3 percent, the first time the rate has topped 3 percent since June 2006.

Three major industries gained jobs over the year in the Ocala MSA, led by trade, transportation and utilities (+600 jobs) for a growth rate of 2.8 percent; Mining, logging and construction and leisure and hospitality (+100 jobs each) with growth rates of 1.8 percent and 0.9 percent respectively.

Industries losing jobs were government (-400 jobs); education and health services (-300 jobs); and manufacturing, financial activities and financial activities (-100 each). Other services and information were unchanged over the year.

Since April 2013, CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion has placed 13,291 job seekers, including 1,152 last month.

May's unemployment numbers will be released on Friday, June 20.

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is the local, business-led organization dedicated to connecting qualified workers with local employers in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties through cost-effective, high-quality employment, training and education services in collaboration with business, community, education, economic development and government partners. On average, 36,000 job seekers and 1,500 businesses receive services at no charge each year. For more information, visit careersourceclm.com or call 1-800-434-JOBS, ext. 1234.

Happy Father's Day June 15th





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