

Sheriff Blair



Town Hall Discussions: What I've Learned

By Sheriff Chris Blair

Since the beginning of this year, I've held several town hall meetings so my command staff and I can interact with the citizens we serve. During these meetings, I'm able to inform people about the great things we're accomplishing at the Marion County Sheriff's Office since I took office two years ago:

(Continued on Page 2)

Here we go again!

By TomL

The insurance government market place has done it again. It is about to cause pain and suffering for citizens on their income tax claims. The government has always encouraged citizens to file early, now they are asking them to wait to file.

Apparently they have sent out bad information on their 1095-A form, which would make filing inaccurate. Your income tax preparer would probably know but if you file yourself and you want more info go to the website Accountingtoday and it will hopefully give you the info you need. If not Tom's

(Continued on Page 3)

**Tom's Picks:
Tree Trimming,
Flooring**

Service Masters



Kelly Brogan

Kelly Brogan Marketing representative for SERVICE MASTER RESTORE OF CITRUS COUNTY. Kelly was recently speaking at an Ocala Business Leaders breakfast. Kelly explained they clean up mold, water, storm damage and, yes, they even clean up crime scenes. With such a broad range of services, if you have a clean-up or restoration job call them and see if it is within their services. Call Kelly at 352-302-9383.

Service Master Restore has been in business since 1989. Owned by Benje Thomas, the company provides a wide range of services, including mold remediation, repairing damage from natural disasters, vandalism, hoarding, general cleaning, crime scene clean-up, regular carpet and upholstery cleaning, and tile & grout cleaning.

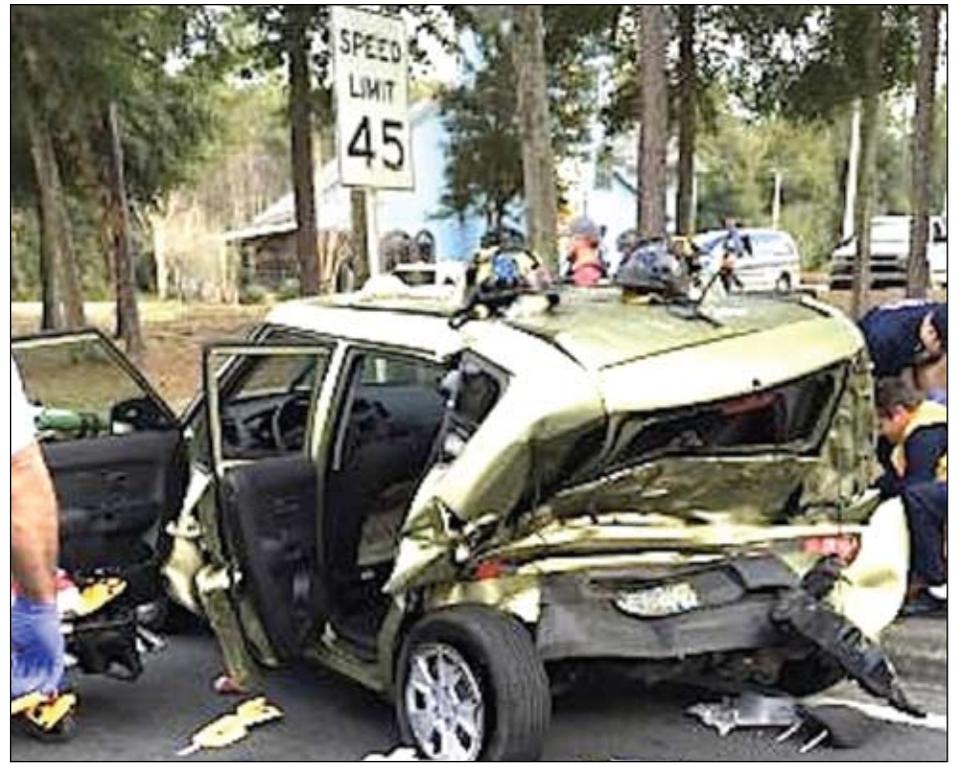
Service Master Restore prides itself on being able to meet any customer needs. "For us, 'no' is not an option. We're here to serve people, to take care of them," says Benje. "If it's something we can't do ourselves, we'll help them find someone who can do it."

The company's wide range of professional contacts allows them to help their customers find the best way to solve their problem, no matter the county.

Their service area encompasses Marion, Citrus & Hernando counties. Service Master Restore is also a certified Florida State Contractor, meaning they are licensed to do construction work in the entire state of Florida. They are qualified to perform all stages of disaster cleanup, from initial removal of debris and damaged materials to final recon-

(Continued on Page 5)

Three injured, one air lifted



Silver Springs Crash Results in Three Trauma Alerts, One Airlifted to Shands Hospital

(OCALA, Fla.) February 16, 2015 – A multi-agency effort unfolded at the 4600 block of East Silver Springs Boulevard today where a hit and run resulted in three trauma alerts.

At approximately 3:15 p.m. Ocala Fire Rescue, Marion County Fire Rescue and the Ocala Police Department were dispatched to the scene where a compact sedan impacted a Kia Soul, leaving its driver and passengers, two minors, in need of immediate medical

assistance.

OFR firefighters rapidly worked on extricating the individuals from the Kia. The driver and one minor were transported to Ocala Regional Medical Center, while the other minor was airlifted to Shands Hospital.

Officials from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, who were in the area, assisted in detaining the driver who attempted to flee the scene while agents from the Department of Transportation aided with the traffic congestion.

Worry? Who me? Naaaaaa!

By TomL

Why should I worry? Isn't it under control? Isn't the president running the country? Isn't the Congress and the Senate in control? Why should I worry?

The stock market is strong! Is it because the president is having money printed and dumping it into the market to prop it up? How long can that go on?

Allowing illegals to have driver's licenses is a move towards giving them the right to vote! How about concentrating on paying

fines for being in this country without working papers? The visitors in this country that send money back to their relatives in their home country is not good for our economy. How long can that go on?

Should I worry about ISIS? I'm not as worried about ISIS as I am our news media manufacturing and intensifying a story.

Should I worry about 21 Christians being beheaded by a terrorist group? YOU BET, but it angers me more than worry. I

(Continued on Page 3)



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

Florida House of Representatives

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Water is a critical part of our daily lives, even in ways that we may not realize. It is an essential component of two drivers of our state's economy – agriculture and tourism. Our waterways and natural environment are also what makes Florida special, and we want to preserve them for future generations. With large amounts of water consumed by an ever-growing population, water storage and future availability are also major concerns.

On November 4, 2014, Amendment 1 passed with 74.96% of the votes. The amendment will take effect on July 1 and this session, the Legislature must implement the amendment through legislation. Long-term, comprehensive reform is needed given the interconnected nature of our water supply. This approach will ensure future generations of Floridians can count on clean and readily available water.

The Legislature has been tasked with creating a structure in which the money spent on Amendment 1 can be easily seen and transparently tracked to allow the public to hold us accountable. Amendment 1 allocates 33% of net revenues from the current excise tax on documents to be deposited into the

existing Land Acquisition Trust Fund for the next twenty years. The amount of state revenue restricted to the purpose specified in the amendment is estimated to be \$757.7 million in Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

A clean and abundant supply of water is critical to Florida's future, which is why

Sheriff Blair

(Continued from Page 1)

Homicide rates are down, assaults decreased by 15% and the number of burglaries were down nearly 17% for 2014. Our clearance rate for part one crimes (murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, etc.) went up to 53.6% in 2014 from 52% in 2013--more than double the state average clearance rate of 26%. Additionally, Marion County's crime rate has been lowered by almost 10% to a record low in our county.

Amendment 1 is so important. We must take a long-term, comprehensive approach toward addressing our state's water challenges. Through a combination of sound policy and smart investments, we can protect the health of our waterways and develop greater access to clean water for Floridians.

But more importantly, I've been able to answer questions from our citizens, touching on topics that are important to them. And I want to share with you what I've learned.

Our citizens are concerned about scams in our area. They want to be updated when new scams are being identified and how we are working to protect them. They want to know how card skimmers work at gas stations and how they can protect themselves from becoming a victim.

Marion County citizens want to know how prepared we are when it comes to natural disasters and terrorist events. How ready are we to face these issues that they see in the news every day?

They even want to know more about what makes the Sheriff's Office tick. How many K-9 officers do we have? How many inmates do we have in the Marion County Jail? Do our officers wear body cameras during their daily patrols?

This is why I love my job. I get to answer questions from citizens who care about what the men and women of the Marion County Sheriff's Office do on a day-to-day basis. My staff and I take great pride in the fact that we can answer these questions at our town hall meetings and help our public better understand what we do to keep them safe. We are committed to protecting you, your families, your businesses and your property so that we can all have a bright future.

I would like to thank the more than 900 people that have already attended our town hall meetings in January and February in the Southwest and Marion Oaks districts. I will be holding more town halls in each of the 12 districts of Marion County throughout 2015, so stay tuned for a town hall meeting event near you!

Here are the next meetings on my calendar:

March 3rd at 5:30 pm at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, Parish Hall in Ocala

March 25th at 5:30 pm at American Legion Post 58 on Highway 41 in Dunnellon

Please feel free to come by and ask me and my staff any questions you may have about your Sheriff's Office. We're here to be accountable to you, the citizens of Marion County.

Want to follow what's going on at the Marion County Sheriff's Office? Subscribe to MCSO's Weekly E-Newsletter at www.marionso.com or "Like" us on Facebook!

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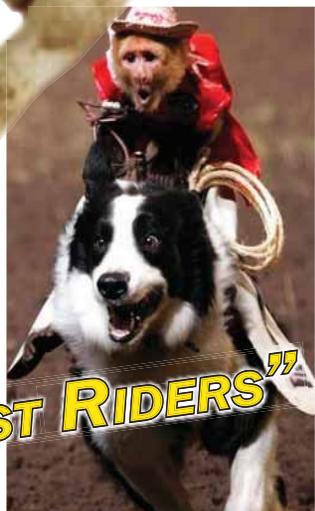
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- Boot Barn - Ocala, Fruitland Park & Gainesville
- Sparr Building & Farm Supply - Sparr & Wildwood

Worry? Who me? Naaaaaa!

(Continued from Page 1)

think they screwed up when they did that. The whole World is saying "Oh My God!" They woke the sleeping giant, the giant (the world) has just rolled over and looked not completely awake but the process is starting. Nations will work together to stop this, or at least we better! I don't think some people realize how big the world is and how many people living here are about to move into motion a movement to stop the killing, to stop raping, to stop the atrocities. The ISIS group don't grow crops, they don't have organized leaders, they don't have a country to call their own. They breed intimidation! Kill or be killed! If they ever get a common core they will be hard to stop. Right now they are hard to stop because they fight for a religious belief and they are thriving on weaknesses. When on the battlefield they can just drop their weapons and become part of the landscape.

We need to communicate with residents of the towns and tell them get out of a town, that we are coming and hell is coming with us. Blanket Bomb the whole town. Kill every thing that looks, smells, etc like the enemy. Take no prisoners! Do not let them surrender, travel light and fast. Move in, strike fast, and have a local militia ready take over behind us. Move on to the next town do it over and over until they will fold, crumble. Do not degrade and manage,, KILL AND DESTROY! Then we will have years of peace! GOD WILL HELP US!

Here we go again!

(Continued from Page 1)

picks gives two names of tax preparers that he has used - Snappy Tax out of Ocala or Robson Scribner and Stewart of Ocala - they both have always done a good job.

I just find it interesting that the government just can't get it right. Of course they are releasing statements like..."We stress that it won't be an issue for the majority who received health coverage through Health-care.gov" - probably because they are running behind with that filing.

I WONDER how much money will be lost because of late filing. You do know time is money! It will cost the government because the cash flow has been slowed down.

Our government hard at work. Bring on the FairTax.



Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



One President, nine Supreme Court justices, 100 senators, 435 congressmen, 545 government elected politicians out of the 300 million are responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

Have you ever thought what their job is - or better yet - what is their job description?

Here are some of the things I have heard. Do the job you promised to do during your campaign. Others say it's the wise exercise of distribution and maintenance of power, whatever that means.

Some politicians say "what's in it for me?" or "How can I do something for myself?" I'll get my wife a job or I'll let my brother win a bid or literally thousands of things. Do you ask yourself what is different today as per 100 years ago? We were the most prosperous nation in the world. There was NO NATIONAL DEBT! Back

then moms stayed at home and took care of the children and the home. There were NO TAXES - government people paid their own expenses. We have some really good politicians today that are truly trying to make a difference but there are too many that are self-indulging.

The one thing that really frosts me is cutting law enforcement year after year. I asked why and one politician said, "when I ran for office I said "No New Taxes". Cutting the law enforcement budget is not new taxes. They cut money out of one department making it weak and move the money around to do things in other areas. Then they say, "see - we did not raise taxes", but what they don't think about is when they (the commissioners themselves) call 911 will there be a shortage of Deputies to respond to their house? When it happens to them it will be a different story.

I live in the back woods and the response time for a 911 call might take more time. I accept the fact that it will take more time to respond so I am prepared to do whatever it takes to protect my family and property.

Sheriff Department and Homeland Security. The time could come, and very soon, that the Sheriff Department will be our first

line of defense against terrorists. It has happened in the past. We have had terrorists right here in Ocala. The FBI moved in on a suspect the day after the 911 attack. It was too late, he had already fled. He owned and operated a business on SR200. Any town on the interstates are subject to drug traffic. Bad guys can move in and out of the state easily without much detection.

In my estimation in a town safety and basic education (I don't mean school lunches) should be the two top priorities, then firefighters and then infrastructure. Counties are basically the same, but towns and counties don't need to be so hard nosed about signage laws. If someone is pulling up signs on the weekend, that means someone is working that doesn't need to be. You can find hundreds of pulled signs in a week certain times of the year. Simple, Monday morning if a roadside sign has been up for three days fine the person for the sign. If they do it more than once double the fine. We don't need a weekend warrior out there pulling up signs. All cities and counties as a rule are both too hard on roadside signs directing traffic to charity fundraisers.

Tell me, what do you think? tloury@att.net

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for April

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, March 18th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, March 25th

Seniors Voice of Ocala

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The point is Dept. of Justice can seem to put their nose into everything else that happens but they did nothing(as usual) about the destruction and harassment of the Jewish students at the University by the Islamists.

Dear Mr Loury

Yesterday I read your "notes" in the Febuary issue of the Seniors Voice / Downtown newspaper, while waiting for my car at Walt's Brakes Shop—one of Ocala's most reliable and reputable businesses.

As the current "lingo" goes "it was spot on" regarding the present government fiasco (s) created by Obama Care and your definition of some government female representatives.

If Cuba has a golf course I wonder who among the residents are allowed or can afford to use them? Perhaps our illustrious President is seeking a place to go upon his departure from the country he has managed to "change" since his inauguration.

Thanks I hope to find your publication each month and follow your "notes".

Very Truly Yours

Jeanne

Publishers Note

First, thanks for being a reader and for your comments. You could be right, perhaps Obama is looking for a place to move to in Life after President. More and more I hear reporters calling him Mr. Obama instead of President Obama. I normally say give our president respect but he has earned the title of "Mr. Obama" instead of President Obama. He has not earned the title of President, he is not a leader, he is a campaigner, he is a reactor. He views the world from a removed position, like he does not live on this planet. Instead he should be watching out for the United States and its people, they should come first.

Again Thanks for reading.

TomL

To the Publisher

Affordable care? Where? When? What? Did I miss something?

Insurance does not equate, or guarantee care. Drug stores, and mall walk-ins are care??

The horror stories are beginning. An 80 year old is told a life threatening condition requires surgery, but will not be permitted to have it. Where to go? What to do? Die? There is no other alternative.

Not even the rich can afford healthcare. The price of healthcare is the problem. Cortisone, \$500 per shot! Who can afford that? Other items are much worse. Remember those death panels? Guess they will be working overtime!

If healthcare were affordable, one could pay for surgery. That is what affordable means. What else could it mean? Doesn't affordable mean you can buy a product? Healthcare?

There is a difference between insurance and healthcare. Premiums, services, and prescriptions are not affordable, under either, insurance or care.

If you had \$5 in your pocket during the depression, you could go to a doctor. Today, \$1000 will not do it.

Insurance does not equate healthcare. A policy without care is worthless. Is healthcare going to morph into death care? People being denied care?

Affordable is a nice word with no meaning of worth. "PRETEND CARE" seems more apropos. How many citizens will meet their maker early?

Due to lack of care, or inferior care?

Keep your eyes in the longevity rate.

D.I. L.

Service Masters

(Continued from Page 1)

struction. They are also a registered partner with FEMA, should disaster happen in this area. They have years of experience working with insurance companies, which can facilitate faster action to repair damage and get life back to normal for their clients quickly.

Service Master Restore is located at 275 NE US Hwy 19 (near CVS). They can be contacted by phone in Citrus County at (352)

794-0270; in Marion at (352) 401-1966; and Hernando at (352) 684-0131. Anyone with question about the business and services are welcome to call. You may also be able to get some question answered by going to www.smcflorida.com Their physical office is open Monday through Friday, 8am – 5pm, But Service Master Restore offers 24 hour customer service for emergencies.

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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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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIES FOR MARCH 2015

8th AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10TH & 11TH, 2015 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MARCH 12TH & 13TH, 2015 AT 1:00 PM

“DOLPHIN TALE 2” STARRING: HARRY CONNICK, ASHLEY JUDD, KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, MORGAN FREEMAN AND NATHAN GAMBLE

The caretakers of a wounded dolphin must help her before they lose her to another facility. RATED PG

8th AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24TH & 25TH, 2015 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON –

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH & 27TH, 2015 AT 1:00 PM

“LEFT BEHIND” STARRING: NICOLAS CAGE, CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY, CASSI THOMSON, WILLIAM RAGSDALE AND JORDIN SPARKS

In the blink of an eye, the biblical Rapture strikes the world. Millions of people disappear in an instant as terror and chaos spread around the world and darkness enfolds the planet. Airline pilot Ray Steele is in the air at that moment and struggles to save the lives of the passengers that remain on his flight, as the world below loses its ability to help his plane to safety. Running out of fuel, his equipment failing, his crew panicking, Ray must guide the plane with the help of GWN reporter Buck Wil-

liams, who takes over the role of co-pilot in the face of the crisis. On the ground, Ray's daughter Chloe frantically searches for her mother and young brother in the chaos and destruction. RATED PG-13

COMING EVENTS FOR MARCH 2015

INCOME TAX HELP

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays continuing March 2nd - April 15th, 2015

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 license and some form of ID.

SENIOR TRIP: EARLY BIRD DIN-

NER THEATER “HOTBED HOTEL”

When: Thursday, March 19th, 2015

Where: Clearwater, Florida

Cost: \$60.00 per person

Time: Leave 8th Ave. at 8:30 AM Return 6:00 PM

What: Terri and Brian Cody are hoping to sell their “One Star Hotel” in the Florida Keys to the only man who has expressed any interest in buying it, Mr. Sam Lewis from New York. In order to bolster Mr. Lewis's interest, Terri and Brian devise a plan to make the hotel appear busier and more prosperous than it actually is. Their staff will masquerade as paying guests, thereby, giving Mr. Lewis the impression that the hotel is overflowing with loyal customers and vacationers. Prepaid registration is required. Limited to 45 persons For more information, please call Grace at 629-8357.

PARADE OF SENIOR SERVICES

When: Friday, March 27th, 2015

Where: CCF Ewers Century Center, State Road 200, Ocala

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost: FREE

What: Over 60 government, non-profit and public service agencies will be represented to provide literature, answer questions and offer services to senior citizens of Marion County. Tax Aid, Health Care, Recreation, City, County, State and Federal Government Services, Social Services and much more! For more details about this event, please call Diane at 401-3916.



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Drunk man points loaded gun at deputy

February 17, 2015---Marion County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to 5800 NE 7th Street in regards to a reckless driver. Once Deputy Joseph Jenkins arrived on scene, he observed a black four door sedan blocking an intersection. Deputy Jenkins approached the driver, Chandler Neal (DOB: 05/01/1991, W/M), who was unresponsive. Deputy Jenkins was able to wake Neal and have him verbally respond to his questions.

Neal then pulled out a .40 caliber pistol and pointed it at Deputy Jenkins, who grabbed Neal's weapon and disarmed him. Deputy Jenkins safely removed Neal from the vehicle and placed him under arrest. Neal failed his field sobriety tests and blew a .220 and .232 BAC. He does not have a Florida concealed weapons permit. Neal has been charged with aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer with a firearm, driving un-

der the influence (2nd offense), possession of a concealed weapon, unlawful display of a weapon, possession of weapon under the influence, possession of a firearm during the

commission of a felony and resisting with violence. He is currently being held in the Marion County Jail on \$13,000 bond.

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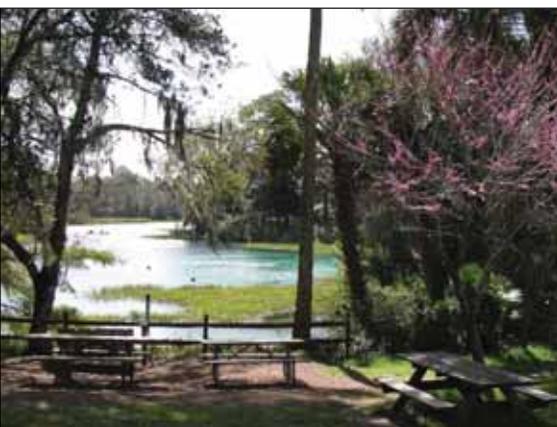
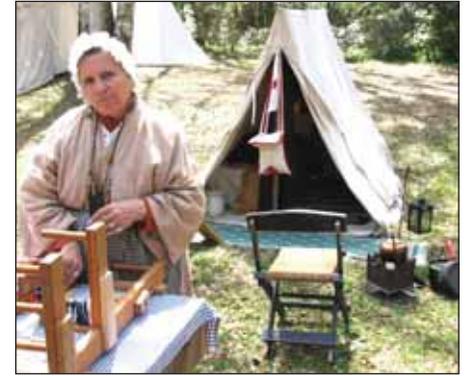
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Cracker Days

Rainbow Springs 2015 Cracker Days was a great success. The weather warmed up just in time, it went into the 70's Saturday and was warmer on Sunday. Thousands of people went through the park Saturday and Sunday. The main theme in histories was "Back in time!" Crackers came from all around - even from Dunnellon,

Florida - to help celebrate Rainbow Springs History. I enjoyed listening to history and then sharing some history. Some Exhibitors actually slept under the stars in canvas tents. It was pretty cold Friday night for those that stayed, it was a true test for a real Cracker!



CEP/OCALA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

The Impact of the Equine Industry on Ocala/Marion County's Economy

Ocala/Marion County Horse Capital of the World™. We have all seen it on signs, used it in describing our community, and bragged to friends (especially those in Kentucky) that we are the Horse Capital. In fact, it is even trademarked. But what does it really mean to be the horse capital? How significant is it to our community? To our businesses?

To answer this question, an economic impact study of the equine industry on Marion County was commissioned. Kathleen Davis

of Sports Marketing Research Institute in Carlsbad, California, was selected to conduct the study. SMRI has conducted numerous studies on the economic impact of professional sports, major sporting events, and organizations across the country. Her findings were staggering.

First, some background on the industry. The Marion County Equine sector is unique in that it is both a native industry and tourism draw. In regard to native industry think about all of the horse farms and training facilities in Marion County. Then think about all of the businesses from feed stores to vet-

erinarians to trailer manufacturers who either solely or in large part serve those farms and facilities.

Now consider the tourism aspect of the local equine sector. While it is easy to immediately go to the overnight tourist who simply wants to tour a few horse farms, the tourism draw is much greater and more impactful than just that one piece. The significant equine eventing and sport industry draws thousands of visitors some for months at a time. HITS Ocala lasts for nearly three months and draws more than 20,000 visitors along with nearly another 20,000 competitors, trainers, and support personnel. The economic impact of this series alone is nearly \$100 million on the local economy. Then add in the visitors who come for Live Oak International and the Florida Horse Park and the significance of the impact becomes clearer.

Now consider what may be the great crossover between native industry and tourism – Ocala Breeders' Sales. The sales and activities at OBS held throughout the year are tied directly to the local equine industry and to the tourism industry. Buyers come from literally around the globe to participate in the sales. As a part of this study, Dr. Davis conducted on-site research and the numbers are astounding. During the sale which she researched, more than two-thirds of the attendees were from outside of the area. The average travel party was composed of approximately three individuals who stayed for six nights. However, it is the average tourism spend (travel, dining, lodging, en-

tertainment, etc.) which is significant. This is in addition to the hundreds of thousands of dollars they spend on equine related purchases and expenditures.

So when you add it all up, what does this mean to Ocala and Marion County. How about \$2.6 billion. Yes, that's billion with a "B". Overall, the results of this study indicated that the total economic impact of the equine industry annually in Marion County is \$2.62 billion in revenues, \$1.60 billion in value added contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and employment of 19,209 full-time and part-time jobs. The \$1.6 billion number is perhaps the more important because it reflects the true impact on the economy.

The equine industry impacts nearly every aspect of the local economy. From farms to realtors to banking to automobile sales, it is difficult to imagine a sector which is not impacted by this industry. The key for the equine industry and for Marion County is to work together to continue to protect and grow this economic engine.

Pull Quotes:

- "Overall, the results of this study indicated that the total economic impact of the equine industry annually in Marion County is \$2.62 billion in revenues..."
- "HITS Ocala lasts for nearly three months and draws more than 20,000 visitors along with nearly another 20,000 competitors, trainers, and support personnel. The economic impact of this series alone is nearly \$100 million on the local economy."

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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.

“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:
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