

Yandles Open House



An Open House was held at Yandles Building Materials. It was well attended - mostly by Ocala Business Leaders, which Clark Yandle has been a member of for many years. Look for more pictures on page 7.





Veterans Day at Ocala/Marion County Veterans Memorial Park drew thousands of people assembling to honor our Veterans. Pictured is the preparation of ceremony of presenting the Flags. There were many speakers, the Forest High School band played, They had a chorus representing many schools, a Mounted Patrol and more. Our Veterans gave and gave to protect us from our enemies, now it's our turn.

Governors Ask President Obama to Suspend Syrian Refugees

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Twenty-seven Republican governors sent a letter to President Obama today requesting that he pause his plan to resettle additional Syrian refugees into the U.S. until further improvements can be made to the vetting process for these candidates

Governors Robert Bentley of Alabama,

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Doug Ducey of Arizona, Asa Hutchinson of Arkansas, Rick Scott of Florida, Nathan Deal of Georgia, Butch Otter of Idaho, Bruce Rauner of Illinois, Mike Pence of Indiana, Terry Branstad of Iowa, Sam Brownback of Kansas, Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Paul LePage of Maine, Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, Brian Sandoval of Nevada, Chris

Christie of New Jersey, Susana Martinez of New Mexico, Pat McCrory of North Carolina, Jack Dalrymple of North Dakota, John Kasich of Ohio, Mary Fallin of Oklahoma, Nikki Haley of South Carolina, Dennis Daugaard of South Dakota, Bill Haslam of Tennessee, Greg Abbott of Texas, Gary Her (Continued on Page 3)

Nestled in the corner at Church Hill Square Plaza is Pakmail, one of the finest businesses in Ocala. They boast "We can Ship anything, anywhere!"

Pictured are Walter Arnold and Russ Moore. Walter Arnold manages the store and is Russ Moore's son. The store is family owned by Walter and his mother and father, Russ and Sally.

In the beginning Walter had worked for the previous owners, later the family purchased the business. Pakmail ships by UPS/ FedEx/DHL/US Mail and numerous freight carriers. One stop shopping. Some of the services available are custom crating, custom boxing, fax services, some pickup and many other business related services.

PAKMAIL is celebrating its 17 years of successful Christmas shipping. They are experts in custom packaging and shipping. When you enter the store all you will see are friendly faces. One of their favorite charities is Big Sun Youth Soccer, Aces for Autism and their church.

Two examples of unusual things they have shipped are a race car and an alligator.

The store is located in Church Hill Square Plaza at 303 SE 17th St #309 Ocala, FL. See them today for your Christmas packing and shipping needs. Check out their ad in this paper. Call them at 352-368-9779.



God Bless our Troops Support Wounded Warriors We Endorse The Constitution Page 2, Seniors Voice/Downtown - December, 2015



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Dr. Thomas Lewis, RealHealth Clinics, Preventing and reversing Alzheimers 11:30 AM Saturday, February 6th, 2016 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM		
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The Chris Blair for re-election Family Picnic at Silver Springs State Park kicked off with live entertainment, great food, lots of children's activities and over 1,000 attendees. Pictured are a few of the Blair Team and Charlie and Michelle Stone. Dennis Baxley spoke about current affairs and uniting our country. Last but not least Elvis made an appearance. Bill Lindsey put on a good Elvis Show singing all the Elvis favorites.



EFlorida House of Representatives DENNIS K. BAXLEY



This week House Bill 169 was presented to the Criminal Justice Subcommittee. This bill was drafted in direct response to a Florida Supreme Court ruling, which stated that the original

legislative intent of Stand Your Ground was unclear in regards to the burden of proof in Stand Your Ground hearings. The Supreme

Court had ruled that the burden of proof rests with the accused. That was not the legislative intent. In fact, when Stand Your Ground was passed, a pre-trial hearing was never contemplated; this was a construct of the courts. Currently, the burden of proof lies on the citizen claiming self-defense. This effectively designates such citizens as guilty until proven innocent. House Bill 169 would change the burden of proof, reconciling the fact that American justice asserts the defendant as innocent until proven guilty. It is always the duty of the state to prove a crime was committed. Unfortunately, HB 169 did



not pass its first committee, Criminal Justice Subcommittee. Justice Cannady and Polston made clear in their dissenting opinion, "By imposing the burden of proof on the defendant at the pretrial evidentiary hearing, the majority substantially curtails the benefit of the immunity from trial conferred by the legislature under the Stand Your Ground law. There is no reason to believe that the legislature intended for a defendant to be denied immunity and subjected to trial when that defendant would be entitled to acquittal at trail on the basis of a Stand Your Ground defense.

"We will be back.

Governors Ask President Obama to Suspend Syrian Refugees

(Continued from Page 1)

bert of Utah, Scott Walker of Wisconsin, and Matt Mead of Wyoming all signed on to the letter. In the letter, the governors express serious concerns about recent comments made by Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey in which he admitted that the U.S. does not have the capacity to adequately screen all Syrian refugees who attempt to enter the U.S.

As governors, we are charged with ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. In order to adequately fulfill this duty, we

Your

request that you immediately review the process by which you conduct background checks on all individuals applying for refugee status and address the gaps acknowledged by your director of the FBI.

In the wake of this recent tragedy, and until we can ensure the citizens of our states that an exhaustive review of all security measures has been completed and the necessary changes have been implemented, we respectfully request that you suspend all plans to resettle additional Syrian refugees.

Opinion matters to us! Let us know what you think about the Seniors Voice and DownTown. 804-1223

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Tom Loury

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



I went to my class reunion in South Florida last month, "It's been taken over by old people!" Like me! Ha Ha. We had a great time. A few people were still putting on the dog, but for the most part

it was fun. I had a few famous people in my class like Attorney General Butterworth, he was there, left early. The DJ announced he hoped the Saturday night crowd did better

than the Friday night crowd, they shut at 8:30! I vowed to make it past 9:00 Ha! We were still going at midnight.

Got a chance to see my brother while I was down there, he has been ailing for some time. It seems he has been trying to get into the VA for years to no avail. Recently, probably because of all the scandals, he was seen. He has been in and out of the local hospital three or four times this year, with large bills building. They finally admitted he was exposed to Agent Orange. He is in a wheelchair, on oxygen, can't walk, has to eat a special diet and take lots of pills. I wonder

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if he could have gotten into the VA earlier would he be in this bad of shape and have a better quality of life. No one has served jail time for all of this!

When I reflect back at what has happened to me over the years I wonder why I'm still in the newspaper business. I have had an atheist call and write and complain about our printed views. A couple of gay rights people called me and were unhappy that I ran a letter from a little old lady who was put back by a couple of men at a public pool and their behavior, mind you I did not print my opinion just hers.

I have been known to stand up for the very young and the elderly. The people in between can pretty much take care of themselves. I was up to my neck in the Cherry-

wood incident. An elderly man asked me for help because the group of elderly residents were trying have a meeting but it was being disrupted by outside people. Arrests were made but the wrong people were arrested. I went and got involved and we worked it out. I rented a hall and they had their meeting. I guess I could write a book, at least I have been told to.

Which takes me to my main goal in this newspaper, "I believe that every person has the right to see their opinion in print" that's what I do! Yes it gets me into trouble but, that's how I see our newspaper's job. Print the views of the people and I have printed the unpopular view before. A letter to the editor is just that, I run them as is!

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Kevin Sheilley —

Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership



Recently, the Ocala Star Banner wrote an opinion editorial entitled Shortchanged on Impact Fees, which we believe with more information the writers would have understood the proposed ap-

proach actually maximizes funding for transportation and public safety—two significant needs in our community.

This is an issue which has been discussed and debated at public meetings for more than six months. The driver for this discussion is economics. For those who are unaware of this discussion, earlier this year theCounty Commission hired a consultant (as required by law) to review transportation impact fees should they be reinstated. The consultant did come back with a set of recommendations. However, more than a few people were disturbed by the recommendations.

The Commission did ask the CEP to assemble a task force to review. The task force included representatives from engineering, road building, commercial real estate, residential real estate, home builders, commercial builders, law, developers, finance, and

appraisers. The group represented professionals who work on the front lines in this area every day but it also represented groups who at times are at different points in this discussion. Yet despite their differences, this diverse group came to a unanimous set of recommendations.

The greatest challenge to the consultant recommended impact fees (besides creating the highest fee schedule in the region) was the lack of knowledge to current building challenges. Coming out of the Great Recession, anyone who has built or purchased a home or building has experienced the conservative nature of appraisals. What one may not realize is that approximately 30% of proposed new construction is NOT appraising at estimated construction cost. In other words, it costs more to build thanthe appraiser thinks it is worth. If a project does not appraise, then it does not get built.

The task force made a number of recommendations which included reduced impact fees and the sales tax. A four-year sales tax not only generates more money for our substantial backlog of transportation needs but it also provides a significant source of revenue for both public safety and our cities. The sales tax (1% would cost the average Marion County household less than \$100 per year) would ensure that everyone is helping to fund our transportation and public safety. It ensures that the thousands of guests and tourists who use our roads and rely on our public safety system while in Marion County are helping to support and fund these items. The path, which has allowed our community to get to this point, is an excellent example of our elected leaders partnering with community members with on the ground experience to come to solutions that address pressing issues.

How to Pick A Present With a Future

(NAPSI)—When the holidays, a birthday, anniversary or other occasion comes your way, you can be seen as someone with a gift for giving-and you don't have to break the bank to do so.

Here's how:

Give a gift that they can always have with them. For example, a great way to say you care is with a prepaid phone and service. There are a number of reasons why.

First, with prepaid phones, the recipients aren't stuck with a two-year contract and they can pick the plans that fit their calling and data needs. You pay for nearly everything up front and get exactly what you pay for. Find the phone you want and buy it. Pick a plan, make a payment and add money to the account regularly to maintain service. There are no annual contracts, no credit checks, no overage fees and no roaming charges.

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now rewards customers with more highspeed data at no extra cost with its Growing Data Plans. Customers can earn up to 3GB more high-speed data by making on-time payments. Every third on-time payment earns an extra 500MB of high-speed data.

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Finally, for the music lover on your list, there's Virgin Mobile Unlimited plans that include data-free music streaming via Pandora, iHeartRadio and Slacker Radio. It'll be easy for them to stream all the music they want, without data charges. They can also enjoy Unlimited Data, Talk and Text with 1GB of high-speed data.





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

We invite you to get acquainted at a complimentary, no-obligation "GET GOING! New Partner Orientation"

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

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

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Yandles Open House

House last month for the Ocala Business Leaders and more. The event was well attended. There were vendor tables available

Yandles Building Materials held an Open so that anyone that wanted to set up a table could show their products and services. There was plenty of food and friends to celebrate the Yandles open house.















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Senior Fishing Derby The weather was great, the fish were bitg and there was no shortage of fishermen / Russ Moore - helping to give tickets out and

The weather was great, the fish were biting and there was no shortage of fishermen / fisherwomen. The senior fishing derby was held at Lake Tuscawilla. It is put on the Parks and Recreation. The grillman was volunteer Dustin Echols (Clay Electric), trophies came from BJ Trophies, Floyd Hershberger

and also volunteering was PAKMAIL's own Russ Moore - helping to give tickets out and helping with the catch and release. Grace Huffman was the coordinator and the person behind the scene making sure the food was purchased. Indoor cooking was supervisor Diane Leaf. We thank all who helped with

this event. It creates memories for many seniors and gets them outdoors in the sunshine. Watch in this paper for the next senior fishing derby.































From the Office of =THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF



Sobering tistics: Impaired Driving During the Holidays By Sheriff Chris Blair

Christmas and New Year's are some of the most festive times of the year: family get-to-

gethers and parties are things we love about the holiday season but these festivities can be dampened due to drunk driving. The U.S. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that drunk drivers play a role in about 40 percent of traffic deaths over the holidays. The U.S. Department of Transportation says that 300 Americans die each year in the days surrounding the Christmas and New Year's holidays. An average of 27 people nation-wide die each day in December due to drunk-driving wrecks alone.

The victims of impaired driving have no limits: they can be grandparents, parents, young adults with bright futures and children who have not yet experienced all the

wonderful things life has to offer. These sta-Statistics are supposed to be sobering. Drinking and driving is truly a selfish act that affects so many people, and yet, this issue is easily prevented.

During the holidays, we encourage you to prevent impaired driving by not consuming alcoholic beverages if you plan to drive. If a guest does consume alcohol at a party, make sure a designated driver is arranged or have them sleep over at a friend's house until they sober up. When driving on the roads, be extra vigilant and practice defensive driving techniques. In addition to not drinking and driving, put your phone down and pay attention to the road. Your vehicle is the most dangerous weapon you will ever possess and being an aware driver helps you prevent an accident right out the gate.

Our patrol deputies will be on the roads this holiday season looking for impaired drivers. If you observe reckless or impaired driving, please call 911 so we can dispatch a deputy to that location. We are here to serve and protect you this holiday season, but taking these steps to protect yourself and other drivers is a step in the right direction.

Rainbow Springs State Park

With the cooler weather, it's a great time to take a stroll through the park. The Azaiias are beginning to give us a bloom here and there and the park is still green and beautiful

December events in the Park start with the Historical Garden Tour on December 2nd at 1:00 pm. Bringing water is recommended and well as closed toed shoes as some areas can be rough and uneven. Tour lasts about one hour.

The adult education series continues on December 17 at 10:00 am with Bugs of Bibleland. Go on an excursion through time with Mr. Davis, past president of the American Nature Study Society to learn how insects were believed by some ancient cultures to have symbolic meaning and divine significance and were part of their everyday lives like they are today. Refreshments provided by Friends of Rainbow Springs.

The Guided Bird Walk, led by Citrus Audubon President, Fred Hileman, meets at

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8:00 am on December 26 in the Headsprings parking lot and continuing through the park. Some binoculars are available for use.

The annual Santa Over the Rainbow event turns the park into a Christmas Fairyland with thousands of lights twinkling . The event runs December 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Santa and Mrs. Clause arrive by lighted pontoon boat and make their way to Santa's cottage where they receive visitors.

December 26 and 27 the event continues for lights only. Admission is \$1.00 cash only. Children under 6 years old are free. Pictures are \$2.00. The Gift Shop and Concession will be open for gift shopping and that cup of hot chocolate. Please, no pets.

Daytime admission to the park is \$2.00 per person with children under 6 years old free. Park is open from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, swimming closes at 4:30 pm..

For more information call 352 465 8555 or visit www.floridastateparks.org.



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Tom Loury 804-1223

"Not All Who Wander Are Lost"

Garden of Mette

I arrived back in Copenhagen, Denmark on August 12, 2014 and planned to stay there until early September when I would travel to Hungary. My time spent during this second round was spent living very simply. My host, Mette, had a small home that she had built herself on a tiny plot of land on the edge of the city. The community she lived in was like nothing I had seen before. In the 1950's these cabins were summer homes for the upper middle class to get out of the city. There are now deed restrictions and requirements of full time living for these communities. Such country living while still being within the conveniences of the city is a rare commodity. By bike, it was still only a 40 minute bike ride to the heart of Copenhagen. Most of the people living here had large gar-

Not All Who Wander are Lost: In the dens in these tiny spaces. To visualize, the land plots were just a bit larger than half of a volleyball court. Mette's property was absolutely maximized for gardening. Her goal was to be able to grow everything she eats, in her garden and minus a few things this was nearly a realized goal. She had several apple trees, a plum tree, potatoes, various squashes, tomatoes, chilies, beans, berries, various leafy greens, at least 10 different types of herbs, and finally bees. Stepping outside and having nearly all of the ingredients needed to make an impressive meal all within a 20 foot distance from the front door was nothing I had ever experienced! I would go outside every day and pick my own leaves for making mint & pineapplesage tea. Everything was made from scratch and she taught me (but I learned poorly) how to make various breads from scratch.



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Cell: 352.843.6215 Fax: 352.867.1911 Shop: 352.629.3134 My main job was to pick up the apples that would fall each day.

Her house was 900 square feet at best. It had a fully equipped kitchen, a living room, and an unfinished bathroom. This meant she had a compost toilet and then the shower wasn't constructed yet. Just outside the back door she had a claw-foot tub that we would run the flexible shower head to and then shower in the garden. When the weather was sunny, this was so nice! But in Copenhagen, even in August, the temperature was often in the high 50's or raining. Suddenly the outdoor shower was much less romantic. Her property was all privacy fenced so there was no worry about being seen by neighbors. But I'm sure you're wondering, "... wait, compost toilet??" If you do a youtube search of "waterless dry toilets" the first video that comes up is the closest example to what we had. Basically, a compost toilet is an alternative to having a septic tank. Here, there was a large open tank underneath with a normal looking toilet in the bathroom. The toilet had diverted the urine away to keep the "products" separate (keeping the excrements separated kept it from stinking). After a "#2" one would just pour a scoop of sawdust into the toilet. Mette said she would have to go outside and rotate it only about once per month, as she lived alone. She also claimed that the only time there was ever a smell was if someone who ate meat (she was a vegetarian) would stay with her, and even still, that it wasn't substantial. Before arriving I knew she had a compost toilet, but didn't really know what to expect. Once I got there all my fears were put to rest as it was really not too far off from normal and certainly not any more dirty or abnormal than a typical toilet.

Her "room" was a loft that was really just an extension of the living room. This meant I didn't have my own room or real bed. I set up a roll out mattress (that was actually the most comfortable bed I had during my entire Euro trip) and used an old antique trunk to act as a bit of a divider. From my "bed" I could look out the big windows that lined the living room wall and look out at the stars. Since we basically slept in the same room we would usually get into our beds and then end up having bed time chats, like preteen girls at a slumber party.

(Continued on Page 11)

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Well once again Obama has proven he is not a leader just a follower. I can't believe the 1 words that come out of his mouth, I would love to know who his speech writer is? He just loves to tell us he know what is best for us even though the majority of us don't want to swallow what he says. I guess he must think he is our Mother and Father, Oh that is right he is King!

God help us if we let these refugees in here. The ones we have now (the illegal's) and others do not want to assimilate with this Country, we do not need them. They have been trying to push their form of government down our throats in the form of religion. I'm sorry anyone who preaches to destroy the United States and kill us all especially the Christians is not religious and cannot be accepted here. I hear no Muslims denying they approve of what is happening so??

Obama can't help himself for standing

behind the Muslims as I truly believe he is one himself after all he was educated in a Muslim school and he is always behind in everything he does, he defends them all the time. He and Hillary are out of the same shell and then you have the socialist wanting to be president, is there any difference.

Why is it so hard for them to assimilate, they come here supposedly because they want the same life we have but then they want us to accept their ways, get over it. Ethnicity is not a factor, you want to be an American then act like and live like one. Follow the rule of law honor our Flag and live your life not everyone else's. Learn our language it is not for us to learn yours, you came here we did not invite you. Canada and Australia are so right, If you do not like it here go home.

Pat Ocala

Governor Rick Scott

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

Please be aware that several organizations have requested that our state Department of Children and Families support the relocation of 425 possible Syrian refugees to Florida, as they receive federal funding to house these refugees in our state. Following the terrorist attacks by ISIS in Paris that killed over 120 people and wounded more than 350, and the news that at least one of the terror attack suspects gained access to France by posing as a Syrian refugee, our state agency will not support the requests we have received. More importantly, however, it is our understanding that the state does not have the authority to prevent the federal government from funding the relocation of these Syrian refugees to Florida even without state support. Therefore, we are asking the United States Congress to take immediate and aggressive action to prevent President Obama and his administration from using any federal tax dollars to fund the relocation of up to 425 Syrian refugees (the total possible number of refugees pending for state relocation support at this time) to Florida, or anywhere in the United States, without an extensive evaluation of the risk these individuals may pose to our national security.

As the federal elected body that exercises oversight and authorizes federal spending, please take any action available through the powers of the United States Congress to prevent federal allocations toward the relocation of Syrian refugees without extensive examination into how this would affect our homeland security.

My office stands ready to provide any available information regarding this request for your immediate action.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott Governor

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

"Not All Who Wander Are Lost"

(Continued from Page 10)

Mette was the real definition of a "foodie". She had a Masters degree in food studies, was currently teaching college level food and cooking classes in Copenhagen, and also worked as a major event planner for large scale food related events. While I was there she was working to finish organizing an anticipated 3,000 person food festival to take place in the middle of the streets of the Vesterbro district of Copenhagen. There was also a food festival for children that Mette was working on and so I volunteered to help her out with that. Fancy this, my volunteer time even counted towards the practicum hours that I needed in order to graduate from UF. So all the while I was having this wonderful and educational life experience, it was counting towards my college education/ credits as well. I learned so much about gardening, cooking, and food during my second stay in Copenhagen.

The children's food festival was oriented to teach kids in a hands on way where food comes from, what it looks like raw, and be encouraged to try new things. They even had a stage in which a man butchered a pig on stage and educated the crowd by showing all of the organs, explaining the uses of each part of the animal, what foods they go into, and so on. But it wasn't just all educational, there was also two concerts performed, including the Danish equivalent of Justin Beiber- aka screaming preteens everywhere!

As I had mentioned previously, the perspective on parenting in Denmark is very different than in the US. Overall, much more interactive even if it means higher risk. So for example, we worked with the Organic Denmark Association in their tent. Our interactive event allowed for groups of chil-

dren (as young as 5) to choose from a large variety of vegetables, clean, cut, and prepare them to be cooked in a stir-fry over an open fire (the adults did the cooking/fire part). But the children were given very sharp paring knives or peelers in which to cut up their veggies. A group of about 6-8 kids would be working at a time with two adults advising and verbally guiding them- but very hands off overall. The kids would peel dice and chop all by themselves with brand new hair splitting knives! And over all the days that the festival lasted and the several hundred children that came through our tent, only one person cut themselves. And that person was ME, the ADULT! I was washing dishes and the knife slipped and... ta da! Danish society doesn't shelter or coddle their children as much as we do in the US. Remember, it was my Danish professor several months earlier that had told me, "In Denmark we pride ourselves on the right for our children to break their arm." She said this to address the general topic, while we were discussing playground designs and how they have fewer safety features (such as railings) than in the US.

In financial news, if you recall just before leaving Spain I had my wallet stolen. Well my father was able to express mail me a new credit card in the meantime. However, Europe had already converted to the chip system that is just now becoming common here in America. Being that my new card had no chip and only the swipe, I was still basically unable to find anywhere that would accept my credit card. If the business even had the machinery to run a swipe card, it would require a PIN number. What? I had never used this in America and it proved borderline impossible to find out my PIN from my credit card company. So, this meant a month of money wire pickups from my wonderful family back home in the meantime until we could figure out something more permanent. Luckily, I didn't really need money as living with my host Mette still included free room and board. And with that, the lack of money and tight budget saga continued into the future. Little did I know it was about to become even more tight as my access to money wiring was to end soon.

Contact info:

Kailah is a 2015 graduate of the University of Florida, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family, Youth, and Community Sciences. She Plans to incorporate her travels into her future career and volunteer endeavors and eat as much gelato as reasonably affordable. If you have any questions or comments she can be contacted by email at: abroadwithclass@gmail.com or you can follow her travels on Instagram at: Abroadwithclass

SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MOVIE FOR DECEMBER 2015

8TH AVENUE - TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AND 9TH, 2015 AT 1:30 PM BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY & FRI-DAY, DECEMBER 10TH & 11TH, 2015 AT 1:00 PM

"HOME FOR CHRISTMAS" STAR-RING: SHANTEL VANSANTEN, ROB MAYES, NIKKI DELOACH, ALEX PE-TERS, ORSON BEAN

Heather is a charming free spirit whose self-absorbed fiancé Roger never seems to hear a word that comes out of her mouth. Bobby is a naval officer who comes home from serving overseas, looking to start a new chapter in his life. Both Heather and Bobby long to meet someone who makes them feel like they are at home in this world but they are starting to doubt that person exists. Thanks to two Golden Retrievers, Bobby's spirited eleven-year-old niece Myra, and a fun-filled theatre production of "A Christmas Carol", these two unlucky and unlikely people end up falling in love at Christmas. But can they overcome the issues of their past and present in order to build a future together?

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

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

COMING EVENTS FOR DECEM-BER 2015

SANTA ON THE SQUARE

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, December 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 15th, and 16th , 2015

Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Where: Downtown on the Square Cost: FREE

What: A favorite family holiday program

including a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, music, snacks and hayride.

Open to all ages. Don't forget to bring your camera for that unforgettable photo. For more information, please call Diane at 401-3916. Must register onsite for a time slot to see Santa. A maximum of 250 will be registered each night. One registration per family. Each family in a group must register separately.

SENIOR TRIP: HUDSON DINNER THEATER/ CHRISTMAS SPECTACU-LAR

When: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015

LICING TOOLTH manch fdimer start your team at marchforbabies.org PAOTEUR 🎝 OF OCAL **DELIVERED TO THE SR 200 CORRIDOR** BUY LOCAL! FREE

Time: Leave 8th Ave. Sr. Center 9:00 AM Return 6:00 PM

Where: Hudson, Florida

Cost: \$70.00 per person (Includes, transportation, admission and lunch)

What: Come join us as we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year. Spread some holiday cheer with building snowmen to drinking eggnog, carols, decorate the Christmas tree, hearing their stories or watching children open their gifts. There is something magical about Christmas time. Come share your Christmas with us.

Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited to 45 persons. For more information, please call Grace at 629-8357.

NEW ACTIVITY

ACTIVE GAMES FOR THE ACTIVE SENIOR

When: Mondays & Thursdays ongoing November thru May

Where: E.D. Croskey Recreation Center - 510 NW 4th Street, Ocala

Time: 9am-12pm

Cost: FREE

What: Tired of sitting at home with nothing to do? Need to add a little exercise to your daily routine? Come join us at the E.D. Croskey Recreation Center for a variety of active games. Pickle ball, Wii Sports, ping pong, bumper pool, foosball and more! Games will be set-up throughout the center giving you the opportunity to take that step towards developing a healthier, active lifestyle.

The 8th Avenue Center will be closed December 24th, 2015 thru January 3rd, 2016 for the Holidays.

The Barbara Washington Center will be closed December 24th, thru December 27th, 2014 and January 1st thru January 3rd, 2016. December 31st hours will be 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

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It is my greatest pleasure to be able to tell you that you have the TOP SWAT team in the world serving you here in Marion County.

Last Friday, our SWAT team won 1st place at the SWAT Round-Up International Competition in Orlando. MCSO SWAT competed alongside 60 other teams from across the state, nation and the world. Teams from Hungary, Kuwait, Sweden and many others traveled to Orlando to compete in this year's events. Each team competed in five different events meant to simulate real-life scenarios: Hostage Rescue, Pricher Scramble, Officer Rescue, Tower Scramble and the Obstacle Course. These competitions are the closest law enforcement officers can get to preparing for situations they may face during high-risk, real-life incidents.

Our SWAT team is comprised of 20 members and eight of those members are selected to be on our competition team each year. This team trains above and beyond the normal training requirements to sharpen their skills to compete against the best in the world. Not only is this competition a way for our SWAT team to build on their experience and skills but it allows our team to connect with other SWAT teams. If we should ever be in need of another team's assistance outside of the competition, our SWAT team members already have these important relationships with other teams and any incident they should be tasked with can be handled more efficiently.

I traveled to Orlando last Friday to support our team's efforts as they won the Gold Medal. It was truly an honor to witness the training, dedication and their willingness to work as a team to accomplish such a success. This team is dedicated to better serving their community to the best of their ability and our citizens should feel safe knowing the best SWAT team in the world is watching over them.

How To Pick A Tax Professional

(NAPSI)—If you're like most taxpayers, according to the IRS, you hire a professional to help you file your tax return—after all, a mistake could mean fines, penalties, even prison. If you do hire one, you should know that no matter who prepares the form, you are legally responsible for what's on it.

Eight Hints On Tax Help

Here are eight tips to keep in mind when choosing a tax preparer:

1. Check to be sure the preparer has an IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). Anyone with a valid 2015 PTIN is authorized to prepare federal tax returns.

2. Find out the fees up front. Avoid preparers who base theirs on a percentage of your refund or who say they can get larger refunds than others can.

3. Always make sure any refund due is sent to you or deposited into your bank account, not the preparer's.

4. Be sure your preparer offers IRS efile and ask that your return be submitted to the IRS electronically. Any tax professional who gets paid to prepare and file more than 10 returns generally must file the returns electronically. It's the safest and most accurate way to file a return, whether you do it alone or pay someone to prepare and file for you.

5. Make sure the preparer will be available. You should be able to contact the tax preparer after you file your return—even after the April 18 due date. This may be helpful in the event questions come up about your tax return.

6. Good preparers will ask to see your records and receipts. They'll ask you questions to determine your total income, deductions, tax credits and other items. Don't rely on a preparer who's willing to e-file your return using your last pay stub instead of your Form W-2. This is against IRS e-file rules.

7. Don't use a tax preparer who asks you to sign an incomplete or blank tax form.





Christmas Trees Go Hi-Tech and Modern

(NAPSI)—For hundreds of years, the Christmas tree has been a popular symbol of the holidays. A survey conducted in late 2014 by the American Christmas Tree Association showed that 78 percent of U.S. households display a Christmas tree in their home during the holiday season. Of those trees, 81 percent—more than 76 million— are artificial.

Artificial trees have recently gained popularity for their practicality and ability to reflect modern decor and advances in technology. A simple Internet search reveals Christmas trees in a rainbow of designer colors, ultrarealistic models with hi-tech LEDs and even real trees that are fresh cut by hand and express shipped on the day specified by the buyer.

Now, Tree Classics of Wisconsin is celebrating 40 years of selling lifelike artificial Christmas trees with its new Snap Tree, a tree storage and assembly solution that requires no heavy lifting. The Snap Tree stores upside down on a built-in rolling stand in the included custom storage bags. To set it up, you simply lay the tree base on the ground, snap the stand in and tilt it back up. The tree also comes pre-lit—just plug it into the wall to deck the halls. The unique color-changing LEDs can be programmed to shine clear or display colors.

Artistry and technology make Balsam Hill's artificial Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands the most advanced and realistic around. The California-based company recently branched out into home decor for fall and Halloween as well.

"Our designers carefully craft our trees to mimic nature using cuttings from live trees as their guides," says founder and CEO Thomas Harman, who was inspired by a family member who was allergic to live trees. "The light string connections are made automatically inside the tree's trunk as you stack the sections and we offer an array of lighting styles, from remote-controlled Color + Clear to our Candlelight LED lights that have a beautiful, soft glow."

The widest selection of colorful artificial Christmas trees online is found at Treetopia. com. The fashionable and funky colors are featured annually in popular magazines, television shows and in designer homes.

For 2015, the most popular nontraditional Christmas tree color is white, but Treetopia's Cranberry Crush tree is a fashionable nod to Pantone's 2015 Color of the Year, Marsala. Designers also favor pink, royal blue and black as a stunning backdrop for ornaments. Ombré is also popular in fashion, textiles and even Christmas trees.

For your convenience, artificial Christmas trees can be ordered online, and now holiday shoppers can also find real, fresh-cut trees on the Internet. The wonders of technology and express shipping let the owners of GreenValley HYPERLINK "http://christmastrees.com/" ChristmasTrees.com offer a variety of premium tree species, grown in their native soil at farms across America. Shoppers pick the date they want their tree to be hand cut and it's shipped from the farm to their front door within 48 hours. These ultrafresh and fragrant trees can last until Valentine's Day with daily watering.

With so many easy and fun Christmas tree options, many homes are opting to display more than one tree—perhaps starting a new tradition.



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