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A free publication serving the people of the Ocala area

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Volume 7 Issue 11
November, 2016

MTI Makes Presentation



John Conway right and Austin Savarese left of Marion Technical Institute Marion Technical Institute is a magnet high school in Marion County designed for 11th and 12th grade students. Students will receive a high school diploma while also having the opportunity to earn impressive national certifications, scholarship money and college credits through Gold Seal programs. The students at MTI have 8 Academies to choose from, which allow them hands-on learning experiences to help prepare them for employment after graduation.

MTI is fortunate to have community businesses and organizations offering their time, expertise, and resources as partners helping guide our programs and reach our school vision.

If you are an interested in assisting MTI by providing donations, facility tours, mentoring, and/or student employment or work-based learning experiences, please contact Internship Coordinator John Conway at 352-671-4765 or John.Conway@marion.k12.fl.us

Ocala Trump Rally



Trump holds a political rally in Ocala, Florida. More than 15,000 attended. He was himself, talking about the Clintons and the problems in our country. In a few days we will know who will be President. A side bar was an eyewitness said two protesters were escorted out of the rally, they got into a CNN van and left. I could not verify it at press time.

Meet The Fun-Gi's



Jerry Abis

Jerry Abis of The Fun-Gi's pictured is presenting information about his business and the chemicals he uses. Jerry prides himself on a guaranteed service that renews your roof, driveway, house and much more. Jerry has been doing this for 16 years. It is a non-pressure cleaning process. Ph 352-219-0131 or www.fun-gis.com Tell him Tom sent you.



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DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Economic Future

North Central Florida is looking at a bright future over the next 20 years for our region. Our current demographics outlook carries the largest predictor.

Soon we will be facing the looming retirement of the Baby Boomers and many will

find their way to the Sunbelt, bringing many resources with them as they come to Florida. Here they will continue to expend resources, they will start businesses, volunteer, patronize entertainment venues, and create a demand that will raise property values.

Additionally, the establishment of a new inland port system handling inbound and outbound containers to Florida ports will follow the inland arteries of I-75 and Florida's Turnpike. This will further develop these areas and add immense value and capital to the region. With added development

we will need expanded transportation and many of these improvements are already well underway. All of this shift in modalities of transportation will spawn new enterprises in assembly and distribution.

North Central Florida has more available land and water resources than surrounding coastal areas and is much more suited for the new development. This will also be attrac-

tive to those looking for less congested areas and our lower costs of living where housing competition is less severe.

It's our time! And we can do a better job managing growth as we learn from past intensive growth in urban Florida. We need to look forward to building our own destiny. Onward and upward!

Dennis Baxley

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Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



While most people will think of the CEP's very successful business incubator, the Power Plant, when asked about our Business Creation efforts, our goal is to be much broader.

We want to work to create a climate which encourages and embraces entrepreneurship. As a result, the Power Plant is the center of our entrepreneurial activities out of which a number of other initiatives radiate. A great example of

this is coming up this month.

The CEP will recognize Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) from November 13-19, 2016. GEW, which has been celebrated in the US since 2007, is an initiative to promote entrepreneurship to young people on six continents. To date, over 10 million people from 102 countries have participated in entrepreneurship-related events during the Week. Bringing the celebration to Ocala/Marion County, the CEP has announced a keynote speaker to headline our November exCEptional mornings breakfast and a business plan competition for area high school students.

Keynote: Bill Rasmussen, ESPN Found-

er – November 16, 7:30AM to 9:00AM, Marion County Extension Auditorium

Rasmussen founded "The Worldwide Leader in Sports" in 1978 with his son, Scott Rasmussen. He is widely acclaimed as "The Father of Cable Sports." Rasmussen launched the world's first 24-hour cable television network, ESPN, where he pioneered such innovations as "SportsCenter," wall-to-wall coverage of NCAA regular season and "March Madness" basketball, and the College World Series.

Registration for the breakfast is \$10 in advance for CEP Partners and \$15 at the door for CEP Partners, who can register online at www.OcalaCEP.com. Registration is \$20 for non-CEP Partners. RSVP by emailing Jessica@OcalaCEP.com. This event is generously sponsored by Webster University and Neighborhood Storage.

Youth Business Plan Competition – Final

Event: November 18, 6 PM, Marion Technical College Brewster Hall

The CEP encouraged 9-12th grade students in Marion County to "Enter the Shark Tank" this fall by competing in the Third Annual Marion County Youth Business Plan Competition. First place receives \$3,500 cash, a one-year CEP Partnership & Affiliate Membership at the Power Plant Business Incubator, and their photo on the cover of two magazines. The 2nd place prize is \$1,000 cash and 3rd place is \$500 cash.

Students were to have submitted their application packet, including their business plan, by October 31, 2016 at 5 PM EDT to be considered. Five finalists will be selected to present to a panel of "local sharks" or judges on November 18. Students may enter individually or in teams of no more than five, and may come from any public, private, or homeschool within Marion County. This competition is generously sponsored by Raney's and Campus USA.

The Youth Business Plan Competition has allowed our CEP team to go into several area high schools to promote both the program and the competition. Repeatedly, we have heard comments about how excited they are to learn about the resources available "here at home" and the amazing companies growing in Ocala. It has provided us an opportunity to share with an important age group that no matter what their dreams, they can do it here in Ocala/Marion County.

The CEP will be hosting a number of other programs and seminars that week all aimed at supporting and encouraging entrepreneurs in our community. Please make plans to join us for one or more of these great events.

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Tom Lousy Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders, Co-Founder of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Award Winning yeah! Yes I'm talking about us our newspapers. Every year the CPF statewide conference has a competition where the free newspaper across the state show their work and we

1,000,000 circulation down to papers with just several thousand circulation. We were lucky enough to win three awards. A first place for ad design 1/2 page, a third place for ad design, and a third place for a picture I took of a sunrise. We are happy to get recognition. We will run pictures of some of our efforts all next year.

In a couple of days we will choose a new President and many political leaders, the important thing is that you VOTE! We have endured one of the worst campaigns ever. I

compete. There are several papers with

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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for December

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, November 16th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, November 23rd

Ocala DownTown

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P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher
Tom Lousy
352-804-1223
Fax: 352-489-7208
tloury@att.net

General Manager
Wendy Netherclift
Ocala Office 352-895-4168

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guess the way I am making up my mind is "do you want more of the same?" Or do you want to shake things up and try to fix things, healthcare for one thing.

The Trump rally was a great success. Witnesses have told me that a thousand could not get into the arena. One witness said that two protesters were escorted out of the rally and they walked over, got into a CNN van and drove away. If so this will show us the bias of the media.

I have not heard anyone that realizes the importance of the State Senate win. The Dennis Baxely win was important because Marion County has not had representation in the State Senate for twenty-two years and we have not had a Republican in the State Senate in One Hundred and Thirty years. I think we will see the results of that in the future. Baxely is the right person to get the job done.

I am not completely convinced we are

Obama's Financials???

A relevant point:
Barack Obama's net worth as of the 2008 election: \$8 million
Obama's salary as president is \$500,000 a year!
Barack Obama's net worth as of the 2012

on the right track as far as recognizing and helping growth in certain fields, we recognize the horse industry but don't seem to recognize agriculture. We have far more cattle than horses. We probably have far more pork grown here than horses. We have a tremendous water supply but don't spend much attention on the matter. I just think we need to take an equal look. A good example is we spent a lot of money for the new building at the livestock pavilion but it seldom gets used for livestock meetings. It's all about business meetings, political meetings, everything but what it was intended to be for. We are slowly choking out agriculture and replacing it with industry changing what we have been known for over the years. The Livestock pavilion was built because a way of life. The farmer and the cattle rancher. I don't want Marion County to lose that identity

election: \$24 million
Barack Obama's net worth as of December 2015: \$46 million.
Barack Obama never had a real job, outside of government.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BOOMERS & BEYOND

UP THIS MONTH! Unless otherwise noted, these events are all COMPLIMENTARY! All trips require pre-registration at <http://recreationandparks.ocalafl.org>

BE THE DINOSAUR Discovery Center Now through Jan. 19 Tuesday - Thursday | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. | Friday | 10-8 p.m. Saturday | 10-5 p.m. Step into the world of 65 million+ years ago and Be the Dinosaur™ at the first interactive exhibit. This is a groundbreaking fusion of state-of-the-art video game technology and traditional exhibits, featuring full-size dinosaur bones, a paleontology field station, a Safari Jeep and more. Visitors of all ages can enter into the largest and most complex restoration of an extinct eco-

system ever created.

2016-2017 SCULPTURE WALK AND EDUCATIONAL SCAVENGER HUNT Tusawilla Park Now-Sept. 17 | Sunrise-Sunset Take a stroll in Tusawilla Park and enjoy the sculptures on display. Complete the sculpture scavenger hunt (sponsored by Family Times Magazine and Philip D. Breske Photography) and receive your complimentary family admission to the Appleton Museum. Download your brochure at www.ocalafl.org/outdoorsculpture or pick up a copy when you start your walk at the Discovery Center (701 NE Sanchez Ave.), Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center (830 NE Eighth Ave.) or at the Recreation and Parks Administration building (828 NE San-

chez Ave.)

FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK Downtown Ocala First Friday of each month | Now through May 5 | 6-9 p.m. Enjoy the creative works of visual and performing artists whose talents are presented throughout historic downtown Ocala at this monthly art event. Plus, enjoy complimentary family art activities on the Downtown Square and extended shopping hours throughout downtown.

OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET 403 SE Osceola Ave. Saturdays | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Abundance! Reap locally grown farm fresh seasonal produce, homemade jellies and jams, delicious kettle corn, boiled peanuts, homemade crafts and plants.

FALL SENIOR FISHING DERBY Tusawilla Park Monday | Nov. 7 | 9 a.m.-noon Fishing FUN for adults ages 50 and up.

Hook up with us for a few hours of fishing at Lake Tusawilla.

CRITICS' CHOICE DINERS | AGES 40+ Cody's Original Steakhouse | 2505 SW College Road Thursday | Nov. 10 | 5:30 p.m. Each month the Critics' Choice Diners will choose a new restaurant to visit to spend quality time with friends enjoying a casual dinner while rating the food service. Diners will meet at the restaurant and are responsible for the costs associated with their dinner. New participants are always welcome! Pre-register by Nov. 8 by calling 352-629-8545.

SWEET FOR SWEETS AND SHOPPING TRIP – DUNDEE, FLORIDA The Charter bus departs Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center at 9 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Wednesday | Nov. 16. An appetizing collection of gourmet delicacies such as chocolates, candies, jellies, and marmalade made fresh daily in the kitchen of Dundee Candy Factory. This is a FUN place to visit. After the tour, we'll travel to the mall to do a little Christmas shopping for your loved ones. Lunch is on your own. \$45/person. Prepaid registration required by calling 352-629-8357.

LIGHT UP OCALA: THE BRIGHTEST DOWNTOWN, Downtown Ocala Saturday | Nov. 19 | 4-9 p.m. A holiday tradition the whole family has come to love! Enjoy entertainment on four states, a variety of food and holiday FUN culminating in the lighting of the Downtown Square.

LET'S ALL GO TO THE MOVIES! Reservations must be made at the hosting center. Seating is limited to eight persons/movie.

"WILL SMITH CONCUSSION" STARRING: WILL SMITH, ALEC BALDWIN, ALBERT BROOKS, DAVID MORSE AND GUNGU MBATHA Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave. | 352-629-8545 Tuesday and Wednesday | Nov. 8 and 9 | 1:30 p.m. Barbara Gaskin Washington Adult Activity Center 210 NW 12th Ave. | 352-629-8357 Thursday and Friday | Nov. 10 and 11 | 1:30 p.m. Neuropathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu make the first discovery of CTE, a football related brain trauma, and fights for the truth to be known. His emotional quest puts him at dangerous odds with one of the most powerful and beloved institutions in the world, the league that governs the sport. Based on a true story. Rated: PG13

"THE JUNGLE BOOK" STARRING: NEEL SETHI, BILL MURRAY AND BEN KINGSLEY Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center | 830 NE Eighth Ave. | 352-629-8545 Tuesday and Wednesday | Nov. 22 and 23 | 1:30 p.m. Barbara Gaskin Washington Adult Activity Center 210 NW 12th Ave. | 352-629-8357 Thursday and Friday | Nov. 24 and 25 | 1:30 p.m. Mowgli is a man-cub who's been raised by a family of wolves. But Mowgli finds he is no longer welcome in the jungle when fearsome tiger Shere Khan, who bears the scars of man, promises to eliminate what he sees as a threat. Urged to abandon the only home he's ever known, Mowgli embarks on a captivating journey of self-discovering guided by panther-turned-stern mentor Bagheera, and the free-spirited bear Baloo. Along the way, Mowgli encounters jungle creatures who don't exactly have

(Continued on Page 9)



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Heart & Soul Cafe - YOU ARE INVITED!!!



Lori and Cathy invite you to come sample their great menu.

The story starts years ago with two friends. Kevin and Mike were life-long friends, later on their wives would become friends. The wives, Lori and Cathy, were in different fields. One was in dental hygiene, the other was in the restaurant business. In the twists and turns of life Cathy would sell the restaurant and join Lori in the dental world. But their dream was to come to Florida and buy a restaurant together and run it. They made several trips to Ocala where Lori's mother lives.

Coming from Halfmoon, New York, the upper part of the state, they found the Ex-Mojo restaurant called HEART & SOUL CAFE and bought it. They said they were very lucky to find Chef Brian which brought them a Southern style with a Upstate New York flare. It is a great mix of comfort food.

They are newcomers, new owners and want to meet you. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hours are from 8am to 8pm. Heart & Soul also caters private events or hosts them at the restaurant.

Happy Thanksgiving



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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SPHLATT

That is the sound of a Gauntlet being thrown down as a challenge to MILLENNIALS.

What does your college education give you, a FREE PASS to vote without knowledge?

At 42 I got a college diploma, and was ecstatic. However in hindsight, that was a mistake. Having devoted the past 45 years acquiring KNOWLEDGE, I now can say I am ready to vote. This is after reading about 4,000 non-fiction books, and watching 100 Greatest Courses.

All on politics, literature, history, philosophy, religion, geography, human behavior, economics. Books have become an addiction, from which I get a tremendous high.

Having said that I challenge any millennial to read {just one of you} :

Tragedy and Hope by Carroll Quigley 1311 pages, or, The Naked Capitalist, The Naked Socialist, or, The Naked Communist.

See if your voting choice changes. Life is not a bowl of cherries. Everyone has problems and hardships, setbacks, illnesses, even the richest among us.

We need to do some things to fix the issues that are amiss with our government. It the best ever devised by mankind. We do not throw it out with the bath water. Some less than sterling individuals have sidetracked it. We fix it. Not with anarchy, but with good will.

For 60 years I listened to in-laws crow about the perfect socialist state Sweden. To-

day anyone with money is buying private health insurance, Health insurance is not doing so well in Sweden, as well as other issues. Socialism is failing all over Europe. Do not vote because someone is selling you at "Bill of Goods". Do your homework. Please?.

A few bucks in free tuition, from my pocket, will not stand you in good stead when future tuition dollars come from your pocket for the next generation. My sympathy goes out to you, as I feel you got nothing for your time and cost. You were brain washed, and propagandized. No one should have to pay for that. You could have gotten so much knowledge from buying books, and reading yourself.

Knowledge consists of reading from the extreme right to the extreme. left, and from the extreme good, to the extreme bad. How can you make decisions, without consider-

ing all aspects. We do not all think alike, that problem is exasperated by this lack of KNOWLEDGE.

Do you want a peaceful, or a barbaric world? A fair, or an unfair world?

A happy, or a sad world? Does stuff, or comfort matter? Does a Corvette make you happier than a Ford? They both get you to your destination. Do 5 mansions make you happier than 1 comfortable house? If I were a billionaire {which I have never had a desire to be}, I would not spend money to make food out of feces. My goal for everyone is comfort. That means not having to worry about paying the rent, light, food, health and gas bills every month, and the job to meet that need. Think this will make the best of all possible worlds.

If someone had a better house, car, or food than, I do, I would not be envious, if they worked harder, or smarter than I do. This is fair advantage.

Unfair advantage is what hurts, and causes all the problems.

D.I. L

Dear Governor Scott,

I'm writing to you about what amounts to a political witch hunt here in Marion Co. surrounding our former Sheriff, Chris Blair. Now that all the facts are known, it is clear that Sheriff Blair was the victim of this miscarriage of justice perpetrated by State Attorney Brad King.

I refer you to the publication "Ocala Downtown" a monthly tabloid published by TomL Publishing, LLC of Dunnellon (<http://ocaladowntown.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/2016-09-Ocala-Downtown.pdf>) Please read both the report by Tom Loury as well as the letter by Sangi Blair which lays out Dear Governor Scott,

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After reading this complete account, I believe you'll agree with me that my Sheriff, Chris Blair, was a victim of a corrupt system of justice. As a Governor who has brought such improvement and prosperity of Florida, I believe you'll agree with me that you don't want Brad King as a representative of your government. Brad King should not have any position of responsibility in your administration.

Please give this incident your full attention. The residents of Marion Co. have been denied the opportunity to vote for a very popular and effective Sheriff. The people of Marion Co. deserve better.

R. A. M.

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Jobless Rate Remains Unchanged

Ocala metro area continues to hold state's third fastest job-growth rate in manufacturing

OCALA, Fla. (Oct. 21, 2016) – The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion area for September was 6.1 percent, unchanged from the August adjusted rate and down 0.2 percent compared to a year ago. Out of an expanded labor force of 196,965, there were 11,975 unemployed.

According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's preliminary employment summary, the number of jobless for all three counties represents an increase of 131 over the month but a drop of 325 from the number out of work in September 2015.

At the same time, the region's labor force grew by 1,874 since August and the number of employed rose by 1,743 to 184,990.

Kathleen Woodring, executive vice president for CareerSource CLM, said that today's jobs report shows that the labor force and number of employed is up in all three counties.

"I think that is very good news for our area," Woodring said. "While we never like to see a net increase in unemployed no matter how small, it's outweighed by the positive growth in the labor force which is fueled by more employment."

Woodring also noted that the Ocala metropolitan statistical area continued to post the third fastest manufacturing job growth

rate among all Florida's metros.

"This is the 16th consecutive month the Ocala MSA has ranked in the Top 5 in manufacturing," she said. "Clearly manufacturing is thriving in our area and providing good opportunities for employment."

Woodring added that there was also strong job growth in September in education and health services, which posted the fourth fastest job growth rate in the state.

DEO's September report shows that Levy County continued to have the lowest unemployment rate in the region at 5.2 percent, unchanged over the month; followed again by Marion County at 5.9 percent, up 0.1 percentage point; with Citrus County posting 6.7 percent, down 0.1 percentage point. Florida's not-seasonally-adjusted rate for September was 5.0 percent, up 0.1 percentage point and the national rate was 4.8 percent, down 0.2 percent.

Here's how the numbers break down for each county:

- Citrus County's labor force grew by 354 to 47,765, the number of employed increased by 367 to 44,548 and those unemployed fell by 13 to 3,217. Compared to September 2015, when the jobless rate was 7.0 percent, there are 109 fewer unemployed.

- Levy County's labor force expanded by 365 to 16,885, the number of employed rose by 350 to 16,008, and the number of jobless nudged up by 15 to 877. In September 2015, there were 899 unemployed and the rate was 5.4 percent.

- Marion County's labor force grew by 1,155 to 132,315, the number of those with

jobs increased by 1,026 and the number of unemployed increased by 129 to 7,881. A year ago, when the unemployment rate was 6.1 percent, there were 194 more people out of work.

Among Florida's metropolitan statistical areas, Homosassa Springs, which covers all of Citrus County, dropped from the second highest unemployment rate to third, behind The Villages and Sebring MSAs which had rates of 6.9 percent. The Ocala metro area held the fifth highest rate for the third consecutive month.

In terms of ranking by county, Citrus County's fell from fifth to the sixth highest jobless rate, Marion County was 12th and Levy County was 29th.

The Ocala metro's nonagricultural employment in September was 99,200 – an increase of 1,500 jobs over the year.

The Ocala MSA's job growth rate in manufacturing was 5.2 percent – the third fastest in Florida with 400 new jobs over the year. The job growth rate in education and health services at 5.1 percent, (+900 new jobs), which was the fourth fastest growth rate for the industry sector among the state's metro areas. Both industries grew faster than statewide over the year.

Other industries gaining jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, at 4.3 percent (+500 new jobs), and government which grew by 1.4 percent (+200 new jobs).

Mining, logging and construction lost 200 jobs over the year as did professional and business services. Information lost 100 jobs.

(Continued on Page 9)

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To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

The Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation are **Moving Forward!** and have unified to create the Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP).

The CEP will serve as the central resource for all businesses in Marion County: new, relocating, existing, large, small and budding entrepreneurs!

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

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

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

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

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Jobless Rate Remains Unchanged

(Continued from Page 8)

Trade, transportation and utilities, along with financial activities and other services were unchanged over the year.

In September, nonfarm employment for the Homosassa Springs MSA was 32,900 – an increase of 0.9 percent and 300 more jobs over the year.

The employment report for October will be released on November 18.

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member of the CareerSource Florida network of workforce services and resources. CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For accommodations, call 800-434-5627, ext. 7878 or e-mail accommodations@careersourceclm.com. Like CareerSource CLM on Facebook, follow on Twitter, Google+ and LinkedIn.

SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 5)

his best interest at heart, including Kaa, a python whose seductive voice and gaze hypnotizes the man-cub, and smooth-talking King Louie, who tries to coerce Mowgli into giving up the secrets to the elusive and deadly red flower: fire. Rated: Family PG

SAVE THE DATE ~ NEXT MONTH & BEYOND

SANTA ON THE SQUARE | Downtown Ocala | Dec. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20 | A FIGHT FOR FREEDOM: THE ATTACK

ON FORT KING | Fort King National Historic Landmark | Dec. 3 and 4 | SANTA'S CALLING | Dec. 6, 7, 8 | SHOW PALACE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR | Hudson, Florida | Dec. 7 | WALK ABOUT TALK ABOUT: TUSCAWILLA ART STROLL | Tuscawilla Park | Dec. 8 | OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE | Silver Springs Blvd. from NE 36th Ave. to NE Eighth Ave. | Dec 10 | AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: "JACK FROST" | Tuscawilla Park | Dec. 16 |

BUY AMERICAN

A recent* Pulse of America survey shows that **print classifieds still work!**

Classified Print Opportunity:	Classified Print Results:
Read Classifieds..... 84%	Sold what they advertised... 38%
Placed Classified Ads..... 15%	Sold or had many calls..... 73%
Bought Print Ad Last 30 Days:	Craigslist:
Real Estate..... 2.5%	Visited Last 30 Days 38%
New/Used Vehicle..... 11%	Placed Ad on Craigslist 17%
Home Contractor..... 3%	Responded to Craigslist Ad.. 21%
Job change ads..... 12%	

* Survey Conducted June 30, 2013

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Marion County's Internet Marketplace

Impress Holiday Guests With A Stylish Home Refresh

(NAPS)—If you have guests coming for the holidays, there's still time to whip your home into shape with smart buys and DIY projects that can instantly turn routine guest areas into stylish, inviting spaces.

Bath Savvy

Refresh your vanity: In small spaces like guest bathrooms, simple changes can make a big impact. Easy swaps of hardware and fixtures may be all you need to set the stage for an eye-popping makeover. Swap out your faucet, fixtures and hardware with champagne bronze or aged brass materials for a timeless look, and then contrast with a fresh coat of paint. If you're unsure about trying new colors, form a neutral backdrop with creamy wall paint like Valspar Signature Irish Cream along with porcelain tile and a quartz countertop, allowing your fixtures to pop. Don't be intimidated if you're doing it yourself. Countertops, like allen + roth's quartz vanity top, come ready to install with predrilled faucet holes and attached undermount sinks.

Squeaky clean: Showers and toilets impact more than just the functionality of your bathroom—they can also add an element of sophistication. To add privacy and style, look first at the shower enclosure. A coated glass panel door will obscure views without blocking light. Got a tub? A new shower curtain and matching accessories will do the

trick. For a time-saving upgrade that guests will love, install American Standard's new ActiClean self-cleaning toilet, available at Lowe's. This new toilet takes the stress out of hosting guests by removing stains from inside the bowl while cleaning more than twice the amount of dirt than conventional toilets.

Finishing touches: Did you know you can install a dimmer switch in less than an hour? Give your bath a warm glow while helping overnight guests easily locate the bathroom during their stay. Finally, help guests find everything they need, and keep them out of your cabinets, with a basket packed with soaps, shampoos, scrubs and more.

New Life For Your Living Room

Color your mood: Warm spaces and soft textures beckon guests to relax during the holidays. To make your living room inviting, try a winter-inspired paint color like dusty rose, deep purples or frosty gray that draw inspiration from powdery snow and cashmere sweaters. Complement paint with soft lighting by adding a pair of wall-mount arm sconces that can easily be installed with a cordless drill and basic hand tools.

Fresh flooring: Give your space a face-lift with floating laminate floors. These floors have the same great look as hardwood and are easy to install (see step-by-step instructions at Lowe.com). You won't even



need adhesive, nails or staples.

For an instant new look, select an area rug by playing with shapes, colors and pattern to pull your room together. To determine which size rug is best for your living room, lay a bedsheet folded to that size on the floor, so you can get an idea of the area it will cover.

Spread holiday cheer: Find the focal point in your living room and decorate around it, like framing a fireplace with pre-lit Christmas trees or draping the mantel

with garland. Add soft lighting by placing LED candles around the room—you don't have to light them, blow them out or worry about dripping wax. Complete the look by adding minitrees and a sparkling wreath to create a festive feel.

For more ideas for getting your home ready for the holidays, visit www.Lowe.com.

Deck the halls, walls, floors and bath for the holidays to help your houseguests to comfort and joy.



A vibrant advertisement for WOCA radio station. The central focus is a large blue circle containing the text "THE SOURCE" in large white letters, with "News-Talk-Music-Sports" written below it. The frequencies "96.3 FM" and "1370 AM" are prominently displayed, along with the call letters "WOCA". Surrounding the circle are various phrases in a handwritten style: "Your 'SOURCE' for News, Talk, Music, Sports, Prizes, & More!", "ON AIR" on a red sign, and "TUNE IN". The background features a blurred image of a radio station control room.

Statewide Classifieds

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