



Jerry Abis with The Fun Gi's shared with us the benefits of his non-pressure roof cleaning procedure.



Kevin Sheilley was guest speaker at OBL Breakfast club. He spoke on progress in the county, gave us statistics that were very telling on where the county is headed and the CEP / Marion County Chamber is helping make happen. Marion County residents should be proud of our Chamber and all it's doing and has accomplished.



Congratulation to Les Singleton while he celebrates his retirement after 36 years of service to the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, in Micanopy Florida. Good Luck Les!

Dunnellon, Florida



A Trump rally organized by the Rainbow Springs Right-Minded Conservatives made a strong statement of support for President Trump in Dunnellon.

As supporters of a strong defense, small government, low taxes and traditional American values we want our voices to be heard. Our message to others is this... if

you love America you will support President Trump.

Linda Szaflarski, Organizer, Dunnellon, Florida



Note: Also showing up at the Trump Rally was Russ Randall is candidate for House District 22 race.

Columbia Bank



There's nothing like an emotive quote to make you think, pause, or smile. Teddy Roosevelt once mused, "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." Ross Perot attested, "Spend a lot of time talking to customers face to face. You'd be amazed how many companies don't listen to their customers."

These two trailblazers may have had opposing political views, but they certainly share a similar ideology when it comes to human connections and the crux of what we all have in common: the desire for

interactions with others who are kind in spirit and speak with sincerity.

Look no further because eight of these benevolent smile makers comprise the team at Columbia Bank. A staff that has been unchanged since the Ocala branch opened in 2017.

While Columbia Bank can boast about its longevity of 107 years – and deservedly so in the current banking sphere of mergers, acquisitions, and frequent employee turnover – any business is only as good as its human representations. It's not cliché or presidential prattle. It's fact. With everything else equal, people still like

interacting with congenial people. It's a bonus when they treat you like Norm from *Cheers!* and greet you by name when you walk in the door. It's a double bonus when they offer a bottle of high quality H2O or a hot coffee. It's a home run when you actually know their names, too, because their seats aren't a rotating placeholder for the next team member.

No matter how much emerging technology precipitates the convenience of banking from home or the office, at the end of the day when you forgot your password or accidentally paid the wrong bill and don't know what to do, it's a calming bygone

Kevin Sheilley
OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

The mission of the CEP is to be the catalyst for a prosperous community and one of the primary ways we seek to deliver on this mission is by actively working to recruit new primary employers. Our current five-year goals include impacting the announced creation of 4,500 new jobs which pay an average wage which is 15% above the current County average and will result in a direct capital investment in our community of \$400 million. Through the first two years (17 & 18) of this current strategic plan, we have announced 2837 new jobs paying an average wage 17% above the County average with a capital investment of \$318.6 million. While this is a great start, we believe year 3 is going to end as one of the best for these measures.

Green Thumb Industries

In mid-November we were very excited to announce that Green Thumb Industries (GTI) was redeveloping the former Mark III property along the interstate. The company will start construction early in 2020 on the first phase I of their new manufacturing and processing facility. This first phase will result in a minimum capital investment of \$15 million and the creation of more than 100 new jobs.

GTI is a publicly traded company based in Chicago. The company has a market cap of \$2 billion and is a leading player in the medical cannabis industry. The company has a license to grow, process, and distribute medical cannabis products through a network of retail locations which they also own. This retail network, called Rise, is licensed for 36 stores throughout the state.

The new Ocala facility will place GTI as a major player in the Florida market especially with our community's central location.

BioSysco

In late November the County and City should approve incentives for the location of BioSysco. This is a life-sciences technology company currently based in Chicago, Illinois. Utilizing a patented muscle activation technology, Sigma Q (SQ®), Biosysco "helps individuals become stronger, move better and recover faster than ever thought possible." BioSysco has more recently developed an equine application for their technology and has worked with a respected Ocala-area equine rehabilitation center on a clinical study.

Pending the approval of incentives, BioSysco is excited about the prospect of hiring new 10 positions at an average annual wage of \$65,500 in the Ocala area. Their initial presence would be at the Power Plant

Business Incubator, where a new program has just been designed to support equine innovation.

Future

Both projects are great additions to our community, but we think 2019 will have one more announcement. We are optimistic to share a significant new addition to our corporate community in this column next month.

SS Benefits Increase



SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2020

By Blanca Taylor

Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Each year, we announce the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). By law, federal benefits increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Usually, there is an increase in the benefit amount people will receive each month, starting the following January.

Nearly 69 million Americans will see a 1.6 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and SSI payments in 2020.

Other changes that will happen in January 2020 reflect the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax will increase to \$137,700 from \$132,900. The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (age 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954) will increase to \$18,240. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$18,240.)

The earnings limit for people turning 66 in 2020 will increase to \$48,600. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$48,600 until the month the worker turns age 66.)

In December 2019, we will post Social Security COLA notices online for retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries who have a *my Social Security* account. You will be able to view and save future COLA notices via the Message Center inside *my Social Security*.

You can log in to or sign up for a *my Social Security* account today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to get more information about your new benefit amount. You can choose to receive an electronic notification by email, text, or both ways under "Message Center Preferences." Our notification will let you know that a new message is waiting for you. We will not send any personal information in the notification. The Message Center also allows you to go paperless by opting out of receiving agency notices by mail that you can get online, including annual cost-of-living adjustments and the income-related monthly adjustment amount increases. The Message Center is a secure portal where you can conveniently receive sensitive communications that we don't send through email or text.

More information about the 2020 COLA is available at

www.socialsecurity.gov/cola

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Friends,
This column comes to you from our desk in the Florida Capitol. That is right, our desk, not mine. This seat, this desk, belong to the people of Senate District 12 and it is very humbling for

me to be here on your behalf today. It is never taken for granted the responsibility and trust that you have given to me to represent over 500,000 people in our great State. We get to work on some big issues, that will affect all of you, and it is very important for you to be engaged and informed in our legislative process.

One piece of legislation that you should all be very aware of is one that was touched on briefly in my last column. In fact, this is probably the most important bill that will be filed all year in the Florida Legislature. SB 404, filed by Senator Kelli Stargel and co-sponsored by your State Senator, is a bill that would require parental consent for

minors seeking to obtain an abortion procedure. Current state law only require parental notification. Critics from the left have labeled this an anti-abortion bill that would infringe on women's privacy rights. Nothing could be further from the truth. This bill is quite simple. Parents must be involved in any medical decisions that their children undergo. In schools, your child is not allowed to take a Tylenol without your permission. At the movie theatre, your child is not allowed to see an R-rated movie about abortion (see movie: Unplanned) without your permission. Yet some people believe that these same children should be allowed to undergo a medical procedure, without any input from the people who are held responsible for their safety. That is just not right.

My friends, this is not about pro-life versus pro-choice. My stance on those issues is well documented and I am very



proud to be called a defender of life, but we need to put all of that aside for minute and recognize what we are trying to do here. This is about empowering families to be able to take care of each other. When a child is faced with that kind of situation, a father and/or a mother's involvement, no matter what decision is made, is so critical to that child's future and we must let parents take care of their children. Since there will be cases of minors who do not have family involvement, then this bill provides a way for them to petition a court, at no cost, and have their records remain completely confidential with no public access.

As this is being written, the bill was heard in the Health Policy Committee in the Florida Senate, and fifteen amendments were filed. All of them were given a fair hearing. We anticipate that this bill will pass that first stop and be heard in at least two more committees before it reaches the floor.

Thank you for letting me update you on this important issue, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Publishers Notes December Issue

There is a new drink being served in Washington. It is called Supenacolada!

Another interesting thing I saw when I was in George Marshals Flags and

Flag Poles place downtown Lady Lake the other day, he had Trump Water. It's in a blue bottle, with red cap and a red, white and blue label. The label says Trump President 2020 with American Flags on it. I think it's a collectible.

What in the Trump world is going on??? The following is what is going on... A kangaroo court is a court that ignores recognized standards of law or justice, and often carries little or no official standing in the territory within which it resides. The term may also apply to a court held by a legitimate judicial authority who

intentionally disregards the court's legal or ethical obligations. More...What is the meaning of the idiom kangaroo court? A self-appointed tribunal that violates established legal procedure; also, a dishonest or incompetent court of law. *****

I have been saying for three or four years that a third party will emerge. I still say that. Right now the Socialist Party is hiding inside the Democratic Party and using their platform to run for political offices. The Democrats have been so busy trying to impeach the President they were not paying attention. They have almost lost their identity. When the Democratic Party started this hate trip they left themselves wide open to Socialism. They just stepped in and started operating. Now it's almost too late for the Democratic party to stop them. They have been educating our children about free stuff they can receive through Socialism. They are not teaching them where the money comes from and why it can't last

forever. Ask a wealthy person this question...Would you stay in this country and let them tax you into poverty or...Would you move to beautiful spot in another country where the taxes are normal?

In my Opinion there must be three classes of people.

- The wealthy
The middle Class
The poverty class

Let's look back in history...

The wealthy In the (1950's)... The wealthy had \$100,000 to a million dollars. They drove a Cadillacs, had private phone lines.

Today...The wealthy are billionaires. They all have smart phones; all have computers; private line house phones; airplanes; go out to eat every night or hire it catered in home.

The middle class In the (1950's)... They had one car, one TV, Mom stayed at home, etc

Today ... There are TV's in every room. Mom, Dad, and the kids all have cars. Moms can even have a career and are not stuck at home all day.

The lower income people in the (1950's)...Some had one TV; phone line was party line; some had older cars that they were constantly fixing.

Today... The working person has everything available to them in moderation. Some people were force into the lower income level when the previous administration said business with a certain number of full time employees would have to pay for their healthcare. The businesses could not afford that so they made everyone part time employees 29 hours. This cost the working person over -25% of their pay. That had a big impact on our economy. That shoved many of the workers down into the lower income bracket, but it gave a false rating for the numbers employed. They hired one more for every four employees they made part time, lower the weekly wage on the working person. Trump getting rid of those rules brought back the full time employee and higher wages. That will raise the lower income to a higher level never met before. This gives that worker and his family more purchasing power, businesses thrive, stock market goes up. We are in a very encouraging time. Actually the stock market is being held up by the middle class workers instead of the Fat Cats that manipulate numbers. Don't let anyone change that.

It seems as though there are some people still in jail for drug conviction laws that are Continued page 10

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, December 19th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 26th

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher

Tom Loury 352-804-1223

Fax: 352-489-7208

tloury@att.net

General Manager

Wendy Netherclift

Ocala Office 352-895-4168

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FRIDAY FEB 7, 2020 7:30PM With costumed, choreographed and interactive audience experience, this dynamic show features the songs performed in the hit musical Mamma Mia. They have performed for the US Military, NBC, Universal, the release of MAMMA MIA and for audiences as large as 50,000! The #1 TRIBUTE TO ABBA The Reilly Arts Center, 500 NE 9th St, Ocala, FL For tickets and more information - www.ReillyArtsCenter.com

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ONE PERSON'S OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to Tom (publisher)

Your article "along came trump" would be a laughable gumbo of rubbish if you weren't so tragically misinformed. If you and Trump mean by draining the swamp is to get rid of all the highly respected, capable, and experienced politicos and replace them with inexperienced, money grubbing, puppet "yes" men then I guess that you are both in agreement. Your lack of credible information, combined with your ignorance of facts are a bit hard to comprehend.

You really believe that Trump is transparent when he has forbidden staff to cooperate with the legitimate investigation,

has refused to turn over any documents requested by congress, and refuses to turn over his tax returns that he promised to make public once they were out of audit? Does this smack of transparency?

When was the last time you witnessed the type of corruption exhibited by this administration? Even the Nixon impeachment was not as damaging as this administration's.

One more thing.... You brought up the steal dasia in your foolish ranting. At least look up the proper spelling...It is Steele dossier. At least this foolish blunder brought a tiny smile to my lips, (but only briefly.)

Bob from The Villages

Publisher note:

Bob what I did was not a rant but you did was a rant! You sound like a hard core Democrat. I take my hat off to you, everyone has to believe in something. Good for you keep up the pressure. I will call it like I see it!

Thank you reading the paper and giving me your opinion.

TomL

To TomL

Presidential phone calls are monitored for a variety of reasons. His phone calls need to be shared with various federal department employees, depending on the reason for any given call. No, the president should not ask a foreign leader about "crimes" he or she may know about American citizens. Those foreign leaders most likely do not get into any "gossip". It would be beneath their

dignity. You need to "bone up" on why presidential phone calls need to be monitored. Here is a link for you - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-49858318>

D.S.

Publishers note

Hi D.S.

I read the link you sent me. It does say that some people in certain positions can listen in, but I ask: Would you want people listening in on your conversations? I know I would not! Maybe the President needs to reduce the number of listeners / leakers so that there are not people leaking his conversations to the media so they can't misconstruct information. I do not like what the president is going through while trying to run the country.

Continued page 9

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Governor Ron DeSantis, FWC and the SFWMD Announce the Removal of Thousands of Burmese Pythons from the Everglades

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced and applauded the efforts of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to remove more than 3,600 invasive Burmese pythons from South Florida's Everglades System.

This month, FWC's Python Action Team reached a major milestone of removing 1,000 Burmese pythons from the wild in Florida. The removal of these 1,000 snakes compliments the more than 2,600 pythons removed by the SFWMD's Python Elimination Program.

"I'm proud that our recent efforts to expedite the removal of invasive Burmese pythons from the Everglades are yielding results," said Governor DeSantis. "The removal of more than 3,600 pythons by FWC and the South Florida Water Management District is

an important milestone in this fight and demonstrates that our policies are working. Together, we will continue to build on this success and do all we can to preserve and restore our environment."

On August 7 Governor DeSantis joined FWC and the SFWMD to [announce](#) new efforts to remove pythons from the greater Everglades. The Governor directed FWC and the District to increase collaboration on a number of initiatives, including training programs, research, education campaigns and incentives for veterans to remove pythons.

The SFWMD's Python Elimination Program and FWC's Python Action Team were created in March and April of 2017, respectively. Both programs were designed to further engage qualified individuals with python control efforts. In recent months, FWC has doubled their number of Action Team contractors, significantly increasing the number of pythons that have been removed.

The FWC Python Action Team's 1000th python was captured by Tom Rahill and the Swamp Apes Team in the Chekika region of Everglades National Park. It measured in at 9 feet, 5 inches long and weighed 23 pounds. The Swamp Apes Team is a group dedicated to serving U.S. veterans through serving the wilderness.

Governor Ron DeSantis & VISIT FLORIDA Launch New Website for Service Members and Their Families

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, in honor of Veteran's Day, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the launch of a new military-friendly travel section on VISIT FLORIDA's website,

www.visitflorida.com/military.

The section is a consolidated source of Florida travel information for service members, veterans, and their families. The site includes information about discounts and

experiences available to military members and their families, monuments and memorials, military-related events, museums and more.

"More than 1.5 million veterans call Florida home and the defense industry is one

of the state's top economic drivers," said Governor DeSantis. Visit <https://www.flgov.com/2019/11/04/governor-ron-desantis-fwc-and-the-sfwmd-announce-the-removal-of-thousands-of-burmese-pythons-from-the-everglades/>

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Restaurant Reviews

Roma's Italian Restaurant review... There are usually 10 to 12 of us that dine out together every week and we dine at Roma's quite often. The food is always good and the wait staff is very friendly. Whether you are ordering a calzone, chicken cacciatore or eggplant parmigiana, you can expect a wonderful meal. Vickie is our frequent waitress and she is amazing - always getting the order & billing correct with a pleasant and friendly smile. I would recommend Roma's

to anyone in the Ocala area that wants a good Italian meal.

(Off US 27 next to Publix).

Ron & Elaine

Front Porch home style cooking, very well prepared, appetizing to look at and the service was good Buuuuu they have home pies fresh made daily.

Breakfast Go For Donuts fresh baked in

house every night. Dunlop Florida.

Terry restaurant on Friday. Great fish sandwich or Shrimp Poor Boy.

Mojo's many great salads in an eatable crunchy shell with your choice of meat and dressing.

A New Hardee's and Taco Bell has opened in Dunnellon. They are moving and shaking in Dunnellon. I like Hardees roast beef.

Villages area Texas Road House had a coupon in the Village Spectator in the October issue for a free Cactus Blossom. Good till 12-31-19

A restaurant I frequent is Northgate Diner at the corner of NW 35th St and Old 301/200A/J'ville Rd. The food is good ol' home cooking style. The service is as great as the food and very moderately priced. The owner Tammy Lolley, and has been in business for over 17 years. PS-Tammy is also a great bowler.

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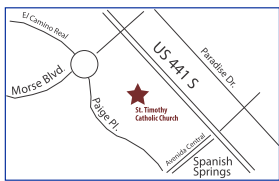
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Answers page 11



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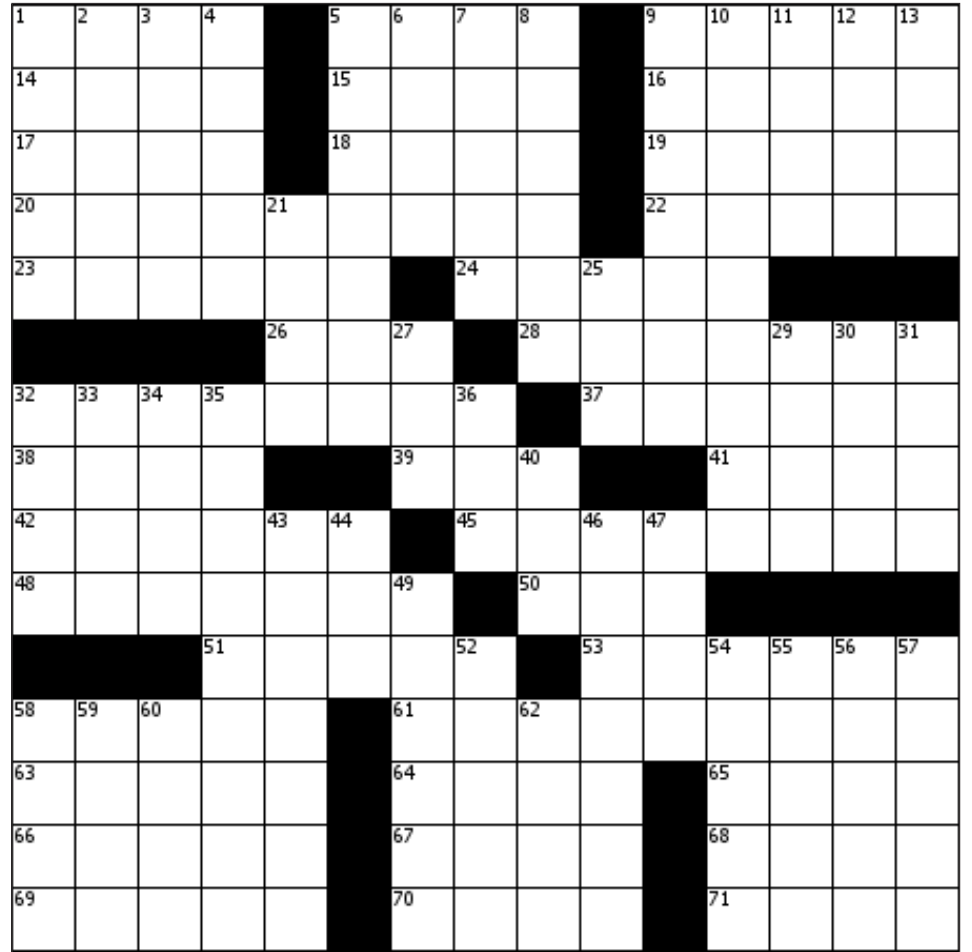
42. Attired like some senators of old
 45. Reason to say "Whew!"
 48. Mooches
 50. Tad's dad
 51. Remote spots?
 53. Los ---, New Mexico
21. Spherical starter
 25. Kickoff platform
 27. Shirred item
 29. It covers half a calf
 30. Sister of Osiris
 31. Bo's equals
 32. Rods and heaters
 33. Place for future carpenters
 34. Like some lunch orders
 35. Where a daytime soap cast shoots baskets?

Across

1. "Boy, is it hot!"
 5. Nothing to write home about
 9. Billiards shot
 14. Ogden Nash's priest
 15. Tess Durbeyfield's victim
 16. Nobel winner Leo Esaki's birthplace
 17. Super's apartment
 18. Choice reading?
 19. Essence of roses
 20. Off-season hangout for Santa?
 22. Looks beneath the surface?
 23. Love's companion
 24. Comparable figures
 26. Animated Szyslak
 28. Put back in the hospital
 32. Gypsy Rose Lee's closetful
 37. Kay Thompson character
 38. Greeting from a tin can
 39. Kind of reaction or feeling
 41. Ruler of Valhalla

Down

58. Mogul Empire capital
 61. Amusing stroke of luck?
 63. Bye, somewhere
 64. Like a dusty area
 65. Anise-flavored apéritif
 66. Green damage
 67. It has many slots
 68. Computerphile
 69. How-to listings
 70. Rain anagram
 71. You need it to make the grade
1. Hollow twang
 2. Mot Cot Pagoda locale
 3. Kuwaiti haves
 4. Charlie the Stone
 5. 1984 NBA Rookie of the Year Ralph
 6. Alternate for butter
 7. Polite title
 8. About vision
 9. Cable type
 10. Earth-bound comet, perhaps?
 11. Pro ---
 12. Not spectacular
 13. Utopia Planitia setting



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Letters

Continued from page 5

Especially with foreign leaders. There are media people not reporting the news. They are trying to create it. The President has obviously done a lot for the working people. He also understands people with money hire people who work for a living. Now the fact that people are working for a living are the same people who are driving the stock market up. The more jobs the stronger the strength of the market but now it's up even after all they have done to ruin the Presidents reputation. Turn him lose and let's see what he can do! Look what he has already done!

TomL

Letter from S.S.

Just read your little paper for the first time. Re: mock impeachment hearing, and your statement " The whistle blower loses all credibility if they cannot be cross examined by presidents attorneys, they can't keep a witness anonymous they must be cross examined"

Did you look up the whistleblower act? Do you know anything about it? That they are protected by the government during that investigation? And not just "they".... that includes you also. In a situation where you could lose your job by reporting fraud wouldn't you want to remain anonymous if you could? But apparently, if it doesn't suit your purposes you don't want to play by the rules.

It amazes me that so many people, like

yourself, will stand behind every awful thing that this president does. He truly has gotten people to show who they really are, and it's not a pretty sight. Rather than making America great he has torn the fabric of what we were on the cusp of becoming.....a nation of beautiful, caring, tolerant people. A shining beacon to the world. God help us all.

PUBLISHERS NOTE:
Hi S.S.

I will look up "Whistle Blower". Thanks you for the tip! I wonder what you are going say when people start going to jail??? What people you say the people you believe instead of the President of the United States. The people voted him in and the people can voted him out. Until then I will stand up for any President the people voted in.

I don't believe anyone should stand behind a curtain. Anyone can say anything and don't have to answer for a lie. Have you been watching the circus that has been going on the impeachment inquirer? Your right God Helpus.

TomL

PS In looking up whistle Blower it says...If it is found that they are lying, they may be subjected to criminal charges. The Supreme Court has ruled this protection only applies to government workers when the disclosure is not directly related to the job.

To the Editor

WOW! Knowledge is bad, a new perspective on that issue.

If you believe that knowledge encompasses just good or the bible, we are

on 2 different planets. Knowledge includes the good, the bad, and the ugly of human behavior including congress and Jerry Springer. The history of human behavior since the creation of this planet is knowledge. There are no limits to knowledge. How can you find a happy path for your life without knowing what to beware of?

One can lead a purely religious life yet know nothing of the pitfalls that exist. That was my route until, I began to read. 4000 nonfiction books later I now have a different perspective on life. There are bad things in life that can be harmful. People do want to take advantage of others use us, control us, enslave us, cheat us, and like John Dewey "Keep us dumbed down" without knowledge of these bad things, we can be

Continued page 10

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Columbia Bank - Meet Our Team *Continued from page 1*

feeling to know your banker is just a phone call away (and with a number that begins 352).
 Columbia Bank hit the mark when they hired this all-star team. It's easy to see that it's a close-knit group that plays hard but works even harder. Every single one of them is sharp, sociable, and will sometimes deliver a dose of satirical wit when their

guests are in a playful mood. It's relationships like these that make customers feel like they're really invited guests. Maybe it's the birthday cards they send each month, or the way they follow-up to make sure any matters are resolved, or how they go an extra step just because. There really is no one attribute that elevates this group and Columbia Bank so far above the others. It's simply the perfect recipe of eight extraordinary individuals who organically blend to create the most satisfying experience for an otherwise necessary daily drudgery.

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Publisher

Continued from page 4

no longer on the books. The Governor needs to look at this and make a ruling to make things right by law.

Merry Christmas to all and we wish you a happy/safe new year!

Letters

Continued from page 9

victimized and exploited so easily. If sharing this information is bigotry to some, they are to be pitied. Closing one's eyes does not make bad things disappear. Bad things are still there, and will still affect your life. I wonder why no one ever told me I was wasting my time reading until now. There just went 50 years down the tube. Wasted.

This might be a fun place to start an experiment. Alinsky's Rules for Radicals vs. Kahane's, Rules for Conservative Radicals. Mull those over for a spell, two perspectives.

Knowledge makes life so much more enjoyable, than tons of money. Comfort {enough money to pay cash for purchases} was my goal, and it has provided me with a happy life, in spite of the usual unavoidable issues we all have to contend with {health issues}. More money would not have made me any happier, friends, and family did the trick. More good friends and family might have contributed to a happier life. Maybe I was just lucky the friends and family I have are good.

The history of lotto winners seems to bear out this theory. Few big lotto winner stories have happy endings. Some are even tragic.

Knowledge not brain washed education is what leads to a happy life. You feel good when you know someone is trying to scam you and you foil their attempt. That is as good as deflecting a bullet.

Prime example: When I researched the price of manufacturing hearing aids, and learned it was \$75 to \$200, I am still shopping for hearing aids.

Knowledge is not a bad thing. It might be the best thing humans do for ourselves. Try it you might like it.

Unknown

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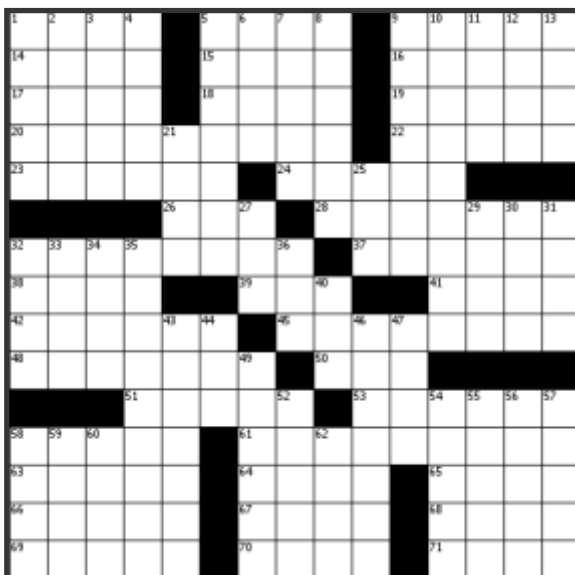
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