

Award Winning Innovations

Meet Debra Jenkins



Marion County: Birthplace of National Award Winning Innovations  
By Sheriff Chris Blair  
You may have seen our kiosks around

town during your daily shopping ventures and lunch hour meetings. The Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) kiosk has in  
(Continued on Page 8)



Debra is an independent Insurance Agent writing with Bird Insurance Agency in Ocala, Florida. She received her Associates Degree in Accounting from Central Community College in Little Rock, Arkansas where she was born and began her career. Debra has worked as Assistant to the VP of Accounting for Alco Health Services, a wholesaler of pharmaceutical products for 5 years, set up a working relationship with Dunn & Bradstreet and assisted in maintaining sound business practices for the multi-state operation with revenues in excess of \$70 million

per year. Debra has also worked as Assistant to the VP of Finance for an international toy manufacturer completing SEC work and heading up the Accounts Receivable Department. She was also Accounts Receivable manager for a wholesale grocer and a multi-state heavy duty truck parts distributor. Debra joined Bird Insurance Agency as an outside producer responsible for new business development for both personal and commercial lines in 2009. She is a licensed 220-General Lines & 215-Health, Life &  
(Continued on Page 2)

Rainbow Springs Cowboy

By Tom Loury  
A little bit of Rainbow Springs History. I met up with a cowboy that rode the rodeos in Marion County in the old days, meaning 1971 thru 73. His name is Dave Springer and he was a cowboy at the Silver Springs attraction when it had a full time rodeo with two shows a day. We met him when he agreed to break a horse for us at the Loury Farm, back then we called it Ridgview Acres. The horse's name was Rascal and he was well named because he was a rascal. Dave came to the farm and rode him every day for several months. Back to the Rainbow Springs history.  
(Continued on Page 3)



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Support Wounded Warriors  
We Endorse The Constitution



Florida House of Representatives

## DENNIS K. BAXLEY



The Florida House of Representatives was in Session for 66 hours and 11 minutes over the span of 21 days this year. During that time the House passed 232 bills. We worked hard for the good people of Florida to pass meaningful bills this year. We passed HB 421 helps to ensure that law enforcement is focused on public safety, rather than fulfilling quotas or increasing local tax revenue. We passed HB 369 to address the growing problem of human traf-

ficking in Florida. This legislation is another step forward in Florida's fight against human trafficking and will help raise awareness of this issue in our state. We also passed the "Right to Try Act" which provides a way for a terminal patient to access investigational drugs, biological products, and devices directly from willing manufacturers, outside of the FDA approval process. Additionally, we passed HB 633 which provides a woman 24 hours to think through all of the information she has received from her face-to-face consultation with her doctor prior to making a decision to have or not have an abortion.

We worked very hard on behalf of our constituents, held true to our conservative principles, and passed significant reforms

to strengthen our education system, provide new opportunities for individuals with disabilities, encourage more forever families

through adoptions, pass a \$400 million tax cut package, and pass comprehensive water legislation.

## Men in Blue

by Tom Loury

Our law enforcement officers do a thankless job. When I say Men in Blue I mean men, women, county, state, city, and National Guard. Many times they have arrested the same person time after time for crimes they are committing while waiting to go trial because the court system is so backed up.

Some of the youth today are being raised as anti-establishment. I hear things like "the company tried to screw me on my time, I should have gotten a raise or that promotion." The same thought process works against law enforcement. Youth on the street

say "THE MAN is coming or the PIG." Any parent that lets this kind of behavior go on is just promoting an accident waiting to happen. Playing a game like running from the police, an accident about to happen. Put yourself in the police officer's shoes. They don't like confrontations, they would love for a shift to go smooth.

Many years ago Miami, FL was having problems with burning and looting. After allowing it to go on and seeing the results they called in the county and the state officers, gave officers the right to use force and armed them. There were some people shot and there were shouts of brutality but the rioting stopped! The looting stopped! The police department was under investigation but it came right down to when the rioters broke that window with a brick they were breaking and entering with a lethal weapon. Allowing this kind of behavior is not an option!

I was raised in a small town in South Florida. There were racial problems. The city had meetings and listened to the complaints and took action on some of them. One complaint was the black population did not feel comfortable going to the beach especially on a holiday when it was crowded. The city designed a beach especially for the blacks, made it nicer than the other beach and set up scheduled sight seeing boats with free transportation to and from the beach. When the NAACP came into town the locals asked them to leave. So it has not always been bad.

Today the White House is endorsing protest and accusing police of brutality or profiling. It has set the racial issue back many years. Think about this and think about every one of these cases. If a person thought they were being profiled they should call 911 and complain when they were stopped or before confrontation happens. The police are in place to enforce the laws and if you're not breaking the law you don't have anything to worry about.

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## Meet Debra Jenkins

(Continued from Page 1)

Annuities agent in good standing with the State of Florida Dept of Financial Services for 10 years. Has held a non-residence license in the state of Virginia and currently holds one in North Carolina.

She is an Ambassador for the Chamber & Economic Partnership, Board Member for Arnette House and facilitates a weekly Networking/Referral Group where she is hopeful she is helpful in growing the business of all the group members. Debra has one son working in natural gas exploration in Arkansas with her three grandchildren. Debra lives on North Lake Bryant in Silver Springs with her dog Zoey. She likes to read, sew, cook and take a boat ride on nice summer afternoons. Debra can be reached on her cell 352-266-9707 or djenkins@bird-insagency.com.



Kevin Sheilley

## CEP/OCALA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS



By the time you read this column, we will be half way through 2015. At the CEP, this means we are now 30 months into our five-year Moving Forward initiative focused on impacting the announced creation of 3500 new jobs, that those jobs will pay 115% of the county average wage, and that it will result in an announced capital investment of \$225 million in our community. Business Attraction is one of our five focus areas and one which most directly impacts these goals, though all of our focus areas play significant parts.

## Business Attraction Activities

Through the first six months of the year, our Business Attraction team is currently working with 48 active projects (double the number we were working this time last year). A project is a prospect that has been qualified as being 1) financially viable or at least potentially viable enough to move a project forward; 2) having a product or service which could be market viable; and 3) would be a good fit for our community.

It is this last criteria which occasionally catches our audience off guard. However, it is our strong belief that companies which

are a good fit for our community will be the ones which will be the most successful long term. This may mean that we focus on companies which fall in one of our target sectors or complement existing companies. An example of a prospect we would not qualify as a project is one which recently contacted us asking to respond to a Request for Proposals. The company led with requesting information on incentives. Good projects (especially for our community) are ones where incentives are a part of final discussions, never as an opening. A mentor of mine once said, "Incentives will not make a bad deal good, but they can make a good deal great." Needless to say, we passed on responding to this request.

The typical projects currently considering Marion County are ones with a proposed capital investment of \$20 million looking to create 100 new jobs with wages of 120% of the county average (again, all higher when compared to 2014). Interestingly, almost all of our current projects fall within one of our targeted sectors. Finally, our typical project is looking for a 40,000 sq. ft existing facility with 28' ceiling heights. We have seen a significant increase in projects looking for greenfield sites meaning they are intending to build a new facility.

## Marketing

We have adopted an approach that the most cost-effective manner for us to mar-

ket to potential companies is by working to meet directly with decision makers and with those who influence decision makers. We recently began a new marketing initiative driven by staff. Taking advantage of several databases the CEP recently purchased, staff is identifying companies in our target industry sectors in select communities. We continue to add content and data to allow prospects to gather meaningful information directly from our website. Finally, we now have nearly 200 commercial and industrial buildings and sites on our online database- LocateOcala.com.

## Progress

Not quite a third of the way into our Moving Forward campaign and we are excited about the progress we are making on our goals. To date, we have impacted the announced creation of 1866 new jobs (53.3% of goal). Those jobs on average will pay 117% of the county average wage (exceeding goal). Finally, these projects will result in an announced capital investment of \$231

million (103% of goal). While these are great accomplishments we will continue to work hard until each of our goals are met and so we can keep our community moving forward!

## Title:

Business Attraction Helps the CEP Move Forward in Their 5-Year Goals

## Pull quotes:

"The typical projects currently considering Marion County are ones with a proposed capital investment of \$20 million looking to create 100 new jobs with wages of 120% of the county average (again, all higher when compared to 2014)."

"At the CEP, this means we are now 30 months into our five-year Moving Forward initiative focused on impacting the announced creation of 3500 new jobs, that those jobs will pay 115% of the county average wage, and that it will result in an announced capital investment of \$225 million in our community."

## Painting With A Twist

Marion Therapeutic Riding Center holds Painting with a Twist Fundraiser to raise money for programs to help disabled children and adults

Ocala, Florida – Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA) is holding a Painting with a Twist fundraiser on July 18th, 4:00 to 6:00. Participants will be provided instruction with all materials and will leave with a finished canvas. Wine will be provided by Island Grove Wine Company and appetizers will be provided by Brooklyn's Backyard.

Bring your friends and paint a beautiful picture while enjoying wine from a local award winning winery and food from one of Ocala's favorite dining destinations. Painting with a Twist is located at 4414 SW College Road, Unit 370, in The Market at Heath

Brook in Ocala. Tickets are \$75.00.

MTRA relies heavily on the generosity of the community and its businesses through donations, grants and other funding. MTRA provides therapeutic horseback riding or Equine Assisted Therapy sessions at a very minimal cost or on a sliding scale for those who cannot afford the very reasonable fees. The program income provides only 10-15% of the funding needed annually to keep the services in place and to cover the high costs of feeding and maintaining horses, maintaining the facility, overhead costs such as insurance, staff and certified PATH instructors. If you have questions about this program please contact the Executive Director, Leslie Gettys Tuesday through Saturday at 352.732.7300.

## Rainbow Springs Cowboy

(Continued from Page 1)

Rainbow Springs had a mono rail ride that went through an atrium full of birds. The attraction housed a wild animal zoo, alligators, and a seven day a week rodeo run by Leroy Mason. Dave Springer worked there and rode almost every day he was not injured. It was not unusual for a champion rider, like Buddy Altman, to ride at Rainbow Springs. It was an exciting time.

Rainbow Springs had glass bottom boats that ran every day and would display the wonderful world of the underwater springs and the home of the largest Bass I have ever seen – usually found lying down on the

bottom next to big rocks. The springs was a big busy attraction with lots of paying visitors. Dave used to say "I get \$10 a day to get bucked off a horse and land on my head." Back then some of the time he lived in a camper in the back of his truck with his Dalmatian dog.

Around 1975 I lost track of Dave but found he worked for Gross Point Stud Farm in Ocala on HWY 40. He worked there over ten years. He now lives in St Pete so he can be closer to family. He is wheelchair bound but remembers all the little details about the good old days. It was fun to meet up again.

## Complaints?

It's a fact, on a full moon people will complain about the weirdest things. Maybe politics, delivery of the newspaper, the writing, the pictures - or anything in general - before, during and after a full moon.

Next time you get really anxious about something, look up. Something as beautiful as a full moon should not cause such a negative response. Don't let it be you! But if you feel need the to curse someone, don't call me because my phone will be turned off.

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*Happy  
4th of July*



Tom Loury

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES



My BS meter is full, come back later when there is room for more!

The following came from the higher institute of learning of the Free Community Papers of Florida:

The only constant

in life is Change!

The concept of change can be scary - we

are creatures of habit. The thought of the unknown makes our hearts race and adrenaline flow, creating high levels of stress and anxiety. Unfortunately, without the ability to understand and embrace change, failure is inevitable - both personally and professionally. Why? Because change is constant and touches every aspect of our lives on a daily basis..

Change can come in many different forms, invited or uninvited. Of course dealing with uninvited change in our lives can often be difficult and painful, however it's very much

a part of life's journey and learning how to deal with it will make you stronger and more equipped to deal with everyday life.

Remember, "life doesn't get better by chance, it gets better by change!"

\*\*\*\*

My thoughts about the above. The thoughts about change are true, but not all change is good! Our country is deteriorating because of the wrong changes, but good change is wonderful!

\*\*\*\*

National and State awards being won by the Sheriff Department are being done in spite of the lack of funds. Crime is down because the hard / smart work of the Sheriff Department in spite of the lack of funds. I wonder what the Sheriff and his department could do if they had the funds? Ask yourself this question as we get closer to election time.

One of the things that bothers me about politics today is someone can make up a story about you and if it's a proven made up lie they don't have to answer for it. That's on my list for change!

\*\*\*\*

RETRACTION! According to a reader the Freddie Gray info that I printed last month was wrong, so I went back to snopes where I got the information and there was additional information. My information came from 4 newspaper articles that I read on snopes. Now it says my information was

wrong. I hope they don't change their mind again. I stand corrected! Sorry.

Late breaking Info: while putting the finishing touches on this paper a storm hit the Loury Farm and did heavy tree and roof damage and left us without power for several hours. We had three lightning strikes that made the phones ring. They were very close! I think we had 70 mile an hours wind gust with rain and hail blowing sideways. When it was all over all the humans and animals were alive, so I had a little brown water ate dinner and went to bed!



Pictured is Dr. Riadh Fakhoury speaking to the Ocala Business Leaders about the science of Chiropractic treatment. His center has medical and Chiropractic treatments. Dr Fakhoury has been in the Ocala area for over 30 years and he has been a member of the Ocala Business Leader for years.

The talk was followed by a question and answer session which proved to be very interesting. You can find his practice on 17th street.

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## Newspaper Deadlines

*Editorial & Ad Copy for August*

**Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown**

**12am, July 22nd**

**Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator**

**12am, July 29th**

## Ocala DownTown

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## “Not All Who Wander Are Lost”

“Take me back to Constantinople... Now it's Istanbul not Constantinople”

By: Kailah Netherclift

As classes in Denmark drew to a close I was making my final travel arrangements to be a live in tutor to a woman in Spain. I made the decision and bought my tickets 3 weeks in advance to arriving. After my classes were scheduled to end on July 4th in Denmark my family was going to meet with me in Copenhagen and the three of us were to fly to Italy and stay for a few days at an Air BnB site. After that we would travel to Ireland. Once in Ireland we would rent a car and drive from Dublin, south east to Killybeg, north to Donegal, and then cut across Northern Ireland, and back to Dublin (effectively traversing the whole island). Originally, I was going to return to America at that point with my family. I had a pre-booked ticket and everything. But when I talked with my mother and told her how strongly I felt that this was something I needed to do, she understood. She told me that if that was my calling then she accepted that (as I would essentially have to forfeit the cost of the plane ticket home that she had bought me). What a wonderful and caring woman. Maybe that is the true definition of being a “successful” parent; when your child's plans and thoughts are entirely different from yours and yet still being unwavering in your

love and support for them. I know I will be thankful to my mother for the duration of my life for allowing and not holding that against me negatively.

But of course in true traveling fashion, some plans went awry! The morning we were all three supposed to board a plane from Denmark to Italy... only two showed up. And I wasn't one of them. I don't regret what I spent my time doing (one last late night walking through the city streets, absorbing all of the city of Copenhagen that I had fallen in love with). However, I do regret the large amount of money I then had to spend for missing that flight. Because I then forfeited my other flight from Italy to Ireland- as they were a package deal. So I had to buy two more separate flights. But my more immediate problem was, “Where will I stay now that my student housing had ended!” I didn't really know anyone in the city who could take me in and a hotel or hostel in Copenhagen was very expensive. Panic mode ensued!

The night before I missed my flight I made friends with a blonde haired, blue eyed, young man from Kenya who lived in Copenhagen. After the shock and tears of missing my flight at the airport I headed back to my kollegium (Danish student housing) that was going to expire in 2 hours, which would render me temporarily homeless. On

the way back to my housing I met another fellow at the bus stop. Talking to him he also said he was from Kenya. I noted that it was a strange coincidence as I also just met someone from there last night. We talked more and realized that the person I had met last night was this fellow's best friend and roommate! In a city of more than 500,000 people, to run into each of them at opposite ends of the city seemed too bizarre. Upon hearing this I told him my predicament and I was invited to stay with the two of them and use their internet until I could find myself a plane ticket! What generosity and serendipity! I was then able to find a plane ticket for the next afternoon to Rome, where my family was. In the process I believe I also made two friends that I will keep in touch with for many years to come.

After arriving in Italy with my family, those next 10 days of what was supposed to be enjoyable family vacation turned into a lot more stress finding not only affordable and corresponding plane tickets, but also to find internet in Rome! As developed of a city as it is, wi-fi was nearly impossible to find. Not even the cafés we came across had wi-fi! Here I had come from Copenhagen, which was more technologically advanced then the US, to what seemed like an internet desert. Eventually I found a flight to Ireland, but with a catch; a near 24 hour layover in Istanbul, Turkey, by myself. I booked the flight and then we told our Air BnB hosts



(a wonderful and funny Italian couple) the good news that I would have the opportunity to spend time in one of the oldest cities in the world. Their reaction was NOT what we expected.

They told us two absolutely horrific stories of terrible incidents that had happened to “friends of friends” of theirs. One involved someone being robbed at knife point and the other in which a woman was kidnapped and taken into sex slavery for three months until the police finally found her. It took me some period of time to pick my jaw up off the floor and turn my bones back to solid pieces

(Continued on Page 7)

## Select Business Associates

*SBA of Ocala is an Association of non-competing, professional business people who meet on a weekly basis to share information pertaining to the local business communities as well as each individual business. The purpose of SBA is to bring together like-minded professionals to increase their business through building relationships and sharing knowledge.*

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## Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day was busy, I know we are late but I think it's important to recognize our veterans. First at the Ocala –Marion County Veterans Memorial Park there was a full memorial service, presentation of the flags, a fly over, a gun salute, speakers from the Clergy, Veterans administration, the County, the state, etc. The ROTC was there and a concert band.

Following the aforementioned activity

the Highland Memorial Park held a separate memorial Service. On this page you will see Dennis Baxely, our State Representative, Speaking. Both Memorial services were well attended.

We must support our troops!

We must support our Wounded Warriors!

We must honor our Veterans!

We must support our Constitution!





## “Not All Who Wander Are Lost”

(Continued from Page 5)

instead of the jello they had become. They advised me to only wear baggy clothes, no makeup, tie up my hair, sunglasses, etc. Basically, look as much like a boy as possible and hide my blonde hair. I was now terrified. Utterly terrified. But too late! And the next day I was off and the Italian couple made me promise I wouldn't leave the airport. But, even still... I couldn't help but think these stories were just outliers or at best exaggerated isolated incidents.

With the long length of my layover there was supposed to be a tour included in the cost of the airline ticket as I flew with Turkish Airlines (which I HIGHLY recommend if you have the opportunity). But it was only after I had arrived that I learned the tour was only for those flights that arrived earlier in

the morning than mine had. This meant I was then to be stuck in the airport (as my Italian hosts begged me not to leave the airport) for the full duration of the layover, I believe 23 hours. Which makes for a much less exciting trip to Istanbul. Not to mention a lot more staring jealously at all the happy families reuniting and then walking out of the building, while I'm left to stare at the taxi cab drivers dying to sell me a ride to anywhere. Simultaneously, trying to hold onto all my willpower to not eat the Starbucks out of all of its chocolate chip banana bread due to sheer boredom.

So I wandered around the airport for several hours exploring and praying to God to help decide if I should stay in the airport or venture out. I felt that the Holy Spirit would lead me in what to do; whether it was a heavi-

ness to stay in or to go out. While wandering around I learned that if I wanted to go outside I would have to get a visa. This was as simple of a process as paying approximately 25 Euros, or 77 Turkish Liras (the equivalent of 28 USD today), and then receive a new sticker on my passport stamp collection. Ultimately, I felt I received a green light to venture out. I didn't feel scared.

I got my visa and I went to a taxi company that did tours of the city. I spoke with a man that made me feel comfortable and he recommended I ride with his partner, a young man of 27. He was well dressed in a dapper button up shirt and slacks from "Express" with a nice watch, shined shoes, and his hair and beard were neatly kept as well. Most importantly, he spoke very good English. The two men were laid back, no pressure salesmen, and when I bargained with me to meet their competitor's price they paused... but then agreed (SCORE! One for ME! As I had always been terrible at haggling). And with that, I set out into the city, on a guided tour by myself with this handsome young Turkish man... praying that he wasn't going to sell me into slavery but simultaneously feeling like I would be just fine with him. Certainly a precarious set of emotions and energy within me.

He took me to the old city and we drove along the water's edge on the main road. He gave me the usual tour guide speeches about the history of the remnants of the walls and beaches that we passed in his taxi van. In 330 AD it became the capital of the Roman Empire, called Constantinople. After that

numerous power shifts and many wars and crusades took place before finally in 1930 becoming "Istanbul". The population of this large city (2,000 sq. miles) is 14.4 million people and is the 5th largest city in the world. My guide took me to the two most famous and beautiful mosques, the Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sofia- somewhat humorously, built directly across the street from each other as if in a competition of grandeur. But because I took so much time deliberating as to leave the airport or not, they were both now closed to visitors for the day. We walked through the markets and community spaces. Everywhere we went locals came up to him and shook his hand. He seemed very humble towards such attention. He lived here his whole life and knew a lot of people, and was clearly well liked. He even offered me that if I wanted to purchase any carpets, etc. he would make sure that I got the best deal from either a friend or he would negotiate on my behalf.

We went through the food market where he picked up things for dinner and I picked up a desert made from nuts to give to my mother as a gift. He asked if I was hungry and said I should eat if I wanted but that he was going to wait because it was Ramadan. Meaning until the sunset he would be fasting. I told him I would fast with him also and wait for him. I figured, "When in Rome- Do as the Romans!" And he appreciated this very much. He then took me to the boutique hotel that he also managed nearby where we met with some of his cousins who worked

(Continued on Page 10)

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■ ONE PERSON'S OPINION ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

I want to know why “these” people can’t get voter ID’S the same as any other American Citizen.

Too lazy?

Just want something more to \_itch about?

Illegal?

Felon?

There is no legitimate reason for them not to have voter ID’s This is ridiculous they are

not hard to get unless you have something to hide and everyone voting should have one. Citizens of the U.S. are suppose to be able to read and write in English, if they can’t they should not vote. This would also eliminate the cost of the second language ballots and signs.

This is exactly how the dead and non eligible people vote. No wonder the Democrats aren’t for voter ID.

PAM

## Rainbow Springs State Park

By Phyllis Loury

Summer is in full swing at the park. The Crape Myrtle and Southern Magnolia trees are in bloom and the Volunteers have been busy planting new things in the Native plant/ Butterfly Garden. Come join the guided Butterfly Garden Walk on July 11, starting at 9:30 am. Don’t forget to bring a water bottle to stay hydrated.

We are excited to welcome The Wildlife Puppeteers, staff and volunteers from Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park and the Friends of Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park, Inc. They will be presenting

Yuma: The Son of the Chief, this is the story of Yuma, a rescued Florida Panther kitten who now makes his home at Homosassa. The show will start at 2:00pm on Saturday, July 25th.

Got visiting grandchildren? Bring them tubing and join them for a relaxing 2 hour float.

All park information can be found at [www.floridastateparks.org](http://www.floridastateparks.org), the park phone number is 352 465 8555.

Park entry fee is \$ 2.00 per person for those age 6 and up.

## Award Winning Innovations

(Continued from Page 1)

formation on missing persons, amber/silver alerts and, of course, everyone’s favorites: sex offenders/predators and wanted persons/

captures of the week. MCSO has placed over 100 crime prevention and informational kiosks in businesses and public places all around the city of Ocala and Marion County. Since July of 2014, over 192 subjects have been placed on the kiosk and 92 of those individuals were captured after being featured. Now, the National Association of Counties has recognized the kiosk with a 2015 Achievement Award in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

We created this kiosk system many years ago, starting as a bulletin board in the Paddock Mall where wanted subjects and other alerts were posted. Our technological advancements have allowed this idea to become much more than a bulletin board in the mall; we are hoping this kiosk program and network can go nationwide so agencies in all jurisdictions can instantly inform our citizens of important alerts they need to know about. A network like this could help save many lives and prevent crime in our businesses---No businesses in Marion County that have a kiosk have had a robbery since the kiosk has been in their store.

The kiosk was re-introduced to the Ocala/ Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) exCEPTIONal Mornings presentation on Wednesday, June 17th, where I spoke about the success of the kiosk program due to the partnership with our business community.

Sergeant Ben Adams, our crime prevention officer, covered various aspects of crime prevention tools that business owners can use to help ensure that their business does not become a target of crime. Sgt. Adams is also heading up a business registry, where MCSO volunteers are visiting our businesses and collecting emails. This way, if a crime occurs at one of our local businesses, we can notify them immediately. Our goal is to keep our businesses and community informed so we can continue to work together to keep our crime rate down.

According to newly released Florida Department of Law Enforcement statistics, MCSO’s crime rate for 2014 has gone down 4.1%---that’s an 8.9% decrease in crime since I took office two years ago. I believe that the kiosk and our crime prevention outreach programs have a huge part in that crime decrease. I would like to thank our citizens for their response and support by providing valuable information and leads from the kiosk program. With our citizens’ help, we could not be as successful as we are in keeping our community safe!

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## SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MOVIES FOR JULY 2015

8TH AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JULY 14TH AND 15TH, 2015 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JULY 16TH AND 17TH, 2015 AT 1:00 PM

“THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR” STARRING: BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH, JOHN MALKOVICH, TOM McGRATH, CHRIS MILLER & CHRISTOPHER KNIGHTS

Super spy penguins join forces with a secret organization to thwart the plans of a megalomaniac. RATED PG

8TH AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH AND 29TH, 2015 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JULY 30TH AND 31ST, 2015 AT 1:00 PM

“NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SECRET OF THE TOMB” STARRING: BEN STILLER, OWEN WILSON, STEVE COOGAN, ROBIN WILLIAMS, DAN STEVENS

The exhibits at New York’s Natural History Museum come to life at night, and when they start behaving strangely, Larry, newly-promoted director of nighttime operations, must find out why. The Tablet, which magically brings the creatures to life, has started to decay and the only method of restoring is

available at the British Museum. In order to save his museum “family”, Larry, his son Nick and the museum exhibits, travel from New York to London, to discover the Tablet’s secret. RATED PG

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 JULY & AUGUST 2015

#### AQUASIZE: WATER AEROBICS FOR ADULTS

When: Thursdays, July 9th – July 30th, August 6th – August 27th, 2015

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 PM Age 18 and up  
Cost: \$15.00 per participant for 4 sessions

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

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

#### AQUABILITY

When: Wednesdays, July 8th – July 29th, August 5th – August 26th, 2015

Mondays, August 3rd, - August 24th,

2015

Tuesdays, August 4th – August 25th, 2015

Time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 PM OR 6:00 –7:00 PM Tuesdays 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00 per person for 4 week session

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

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

### CELEBRATE JULY – RECREATION & PARKS MONTH!

#### SENIOR ICE CREAM SOCIAL

When: Thursday, July 23, 2015

Time: Drop in between the hours of 11:00AM – 1:00PM

Cost: FREE

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Ave., Ocala

What: In celebration of Recreation & Parks month, we will be having an old fash-

ioned ice cream social. Drop by between the hours of 11AM and 1PM and make your own ice cream sundae with all the toppings.

### BOOMERS OPEN SWIM

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, August 4th – August 27th, 2015

Time: 9:00 to 10:50 AM Ages 50 and up

Cost: \$3.00 per participant

Where: Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Ocala-Jervey Gantt Aquatic Fun Center, 2390 SE 36th Avenue, Ocala

### MAXIMIZE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

When: Saturday, August 15, 2015

Time: 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: 8th Avenue Senior Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

What: A financial educational program provided by Community Outreach for Financial Education will be offered monthly. This month’s focus is Social Security Benefits. Deciding when and how to take your benefits can be confusing. We can show you how to maximize your benefit.

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## “Not All Who Wander Are Lost”

(Continued from Page 7)

for him to wait for sunset to eat. He generously made me a Turkish Coffee. I loooovee coffee and due to the high price in Denmark had been abstaining for far too long. Turkish coffee is made by boiling water and then adding special finely ground coffee to the water, stirring until it begins to boil then immediately removing from heat and serving. It's commonly drank without any cream and in tiny espresso sized tea cups. Once you finish a Turkish Coffee your supposed to turn the cup upside down on the saucer and after a few minutes flip it over. In the grounds that remain in the cup and have dripped along the walls, it is believed that you can read a person's future. Like any skills, it is more respected when it is read by someone who studies it, similar to palm reading. But similar to palm reading though, most modern people don't really believe in it so much as truth than as just enjoy the fun of it.

I sat on the patio of his boutique hotel watching the world cup soccer match on a HD flat screen T.V. and watching the sun slowly set behind the buildings of the swanky, hilly area of the city, while tourists passed by on foot. My guide and his cousins prepared a wonderful meal in the outdoor kitchen on the patio. I talked to some of his guest who were leaving, a group of Californians on holiday. One of which was a psychologist and we talked for a bit about her work. It was nice to find an American as they were uncommon to find after two and a

half months away from America. Once the sun went down we all dug into the wonderful meal the guys had made. A lamb omelet type of dish, lentil soup, and some bread. In Turkish style, we all shared the main dish from the center of the table, and everyone dipped their bread directly into the dish of soup we all shared... community eating at its finest! It was strange but it was wonderful!

Shortly after we had finished the meal two young boys came up to us, begging. They looked like normal kids, maybe aged 6 and 8, not particularly dirty or “streetwise” seeming. They only appeared very scared. One was obviously the older brother and kept his hands tightly on his brother shoulders. Ahmed spoke to them in Turkish. He then turned to me and asked if the kids can have my desert. I immediately said yes and handed them two forks. They grabbed the to-go container and ran across the street and sat on the curb and ate hungrily. After a bit of silence I asked my guide to explain what had just happened as it felt very awkward, even for me not knowing the language. He said that they were Syrian refugees. He said these incidents happen much more commonly now but only as of recently. He said that they have nothing, no money, no food, and no fun. He lamented that he feels bad for them as they are only children with no childhood to be had. He says they often come around asking for money, but that if you give them money their parents will then

collect it from them. But dessert is something they never would get to enjoy if their parents buy them food. So when they come around he prefers to give them dessert rather than money. He continued by saying it's already unfair enough that they are refugees in a foreign country and have lost everything, and often not in school, the least he can do for them is to allow them to enjoy the happiness of some dessert.

I had heard and been following the conflict and refugee situation in Syria. But never had I “seen” it before this moment. Living so far across the world makes it very easy for us to feel so removed, but seeing two normal looking kids that would blend in perfectly at any American elementary school, so scared, and so thankful for such a small sugary treat... really struck my heart deep. This was one of the most eye opening moments, reminding me how small the world is, and how similar we all are, that I experienced during my whole trip.

After dinner, once the soccer game was over, he offered me to stay at his hotel for free and that he would return me to the airport before my flight. By this time (spending the majority of the day together) it was very clear that we were friends and that he was a good intentioned person- he even had a girlfriend that he spoke of regularly. But... because I had just missed a flight with damaging consequences, I was NOT going to

risk anything and told him I was just fine to sleep in the airport for the night. As a proper man he thought this was a dreadful idea for me but obliged me and took me back to the airport. We exchanged “snap chat” information and are still friends through that app to this day.

But I had done it. I had traveled to what was said to be a “dangerous” place, on my own, safely, and made some friends in the meantime. This experience gave me confidence that setting out on my independent adventure to Spain was definitely a good idea for my personal growth. I stayed awake most of the night reflecting on the roller coaster of fears, emotions, and experiences of the day before taking off on my 7 am flight to Ireland to reunite with my family. No dessert in hand as a gift, but with a much more meaningful and lasting sweetness of my guide's humanity towards the innocent children afflicted by war.

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](mailto:abroadwithclass@gmail.com)

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