

Gateway Bank Holds Open House



April Savares center was the host for the Gateway Bank open house. Pictured are some of the Ocala Business Leaders networking that evening. Ocala Business Leaders is the premier networking group that has a long history of business/family values.

Tourism

Record 105 Million Tourists in 2015

ORLANDO, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida set another record in tourism by welcoming 105 million visitors in 2015, according to VISIT FLORIDA. This is the fifth consecutive record year for visitation to Florida, exceeding the previous high of 98.5 million in 2014 by 6.6 percent. The average number of direct travel-related jobs in 2015 was also a record high, with 1,199,200 Floridians employed in the tourism industry - up 53,400 or 4.7 percent over the same period last year. Governor Scott made the announcement at Walt Disney World in Orlando.

Governor Scott said, "I am proud to announce that Florida has surpassed our tourism goal and welcomed an historic 105 million visitors to our state in 2015. The number of travel-related jobs also reached a record high, with 1.2 million Floridians employed in the tourism industry. Tourism plays an important role in supporting our economy, and we will continue to make strategic in-

vestments in the tourism industry to keep Florida on track to becoming first for jobs. With five consecutive record years for tourism, it is time to set our goal even higher, and I look forward to welcoming 115 million visitors to the Sunshine State this year."

VISIT FLORIDA estimates that a record 89.8 million domestic visitors traveled to Florida in 2015, reflecting an 8.0 percent increase over 2014. Estimates also show that 11.2 million overseas visitors and 4.0 million Canadians came to the Sunshine State last year. Total enplanements at 18 Florida airports during 2015 increased 8.2 percent over the previous year, representing a record 6.1 million more enplaned passengers than in 2014.

Will Secombe, President and CEO of VISIT FLORIDA, said, "Five years of record-setting visitation does not happen by accident. It's the direct result of a global marketing strategy focused on maximizing the economic impact of Florida tourism. Today's announcement shows tourism market-

ing works and we have Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature to thank for their unparalleled leadership and support that has the Sunshine State on track to become the No. 1 travel destination in the world."

Bob Chapek, chairman, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, said, "As home of the most popular theme park in the world, we're thrilled to contribute to the record number of visitors to Florida — and the jobs and economic opportunities that tourism helps to create."

Tourism and recreation taxable sales for Florida increased every month year-over-year from January through November 2015 (last reported month), representing an 8.6 percent increase over the same period in 2014. For 2015, the average daily room rate (ADR) rose 5.9 percent and the number of rooms sold grew by 4.5 percent compared to 2014. Florida's average occupancy rate for 2015 was 72.0 percent, an increase of 3.2 percent over 2014. This represents a record year for the statewide calendar year occu-

Steve Claytor



Steve Claytor demonstrates wilderness fire starting techniques. Coach Steve teaches Wilderness Survival Classes and Prepper Consultation.

Happy Easter!



pancy rate, exceeding the previous high of 69.8 percent in 2014.

John Tomlin, Chair of the VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors, said, "Achieving record visitation for five consecutive years, including reaching 105 million visitors in 2015, is a testament to the strong industry alignment between VISIT FLORIDA and our tourism Partners. Thanks to the visionary support of Governor Scott and the Florida legislature, together we have built a solid foundation that will enable us to reach our goal of generating \$100 billion in visitor spending by 2020."

For fourth quarter 2015, preliminary estimates show a record 25.2 million people visited the Sunshine State. This represents the largest fourth quarter visitation number Florida has ever seen and reflects an increase of 6.7 percent over the same period in 2014. VISIT FLORIDA also reports that an estimated 2.9 million overseas visitors and 671,000 Canadians traveled to Florida in the fourth quarter

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■ Florida House of Representatives ■

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



The 2016 Legislative Session is focused on tax cuts, the state budget, and protecting Floridians' Second Amendment rights. The Finance & Tax Committee rolled out and passed the House's 2016 tax cut package. This year's broad-based tax cut package focuses on returning \$1 billion to Floridians to help grow our economy and make our state an even more affordable place to live. The tax package includes a permanent cut to the business rent tax, a permanent elimination of the sales tax on the purchase of manufacturing equipment, and expanded eligibility for tax relief for disabled veterans and the spouses of deceased veterans who sacrificed their lives for our country.

The Appropriations Committee also passed a \$79.98 billion budget proposal for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. The House has once again put forward a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that includes record per student education spending, significant funding to protect our critical environmental resources, and over \$3 billion in reserves.

The House also passed several bills which will further protect Floridians' Second Amendment rights. House Bill 163 allows law-abiding citizens with a concealed carry permit to openly carry their firearm in a holster or in a case or bag. Currently, Florida is one of only five states that do not allow open carry of firearms. Allowing responsible citizens to carry openly will help further deter criminal activity in our state. House Bill 4001 allows those with a valid concealed firearms permit to carry concealed firearms on college and university campuses. Currently, college campuses are vulnerable "gun-free zones." This legisla-

tion will improve the safety of our college campuses by empowering law-abiding gun owners with the ability to defend themselves and others on campus if necessary. These pieces of legislation will contribute to creating a safer state for all Floridians.

We will continue to work on both sides of the aisle to ensure solutions to the challenges facing our state. As always, thank you for your confidence in my service. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our district in Tallahassee.



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From the Office of THE MARION COUNTY SHERIFF



Scams: What You Need To Know
By Sheriff Chris Blair

Here at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, our job is to help educate our public on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

A majority of the citizens I talk to are very interested in learning more about scams and financial fraud in our area. Unfortunately, the criminals that participate in these types of crimes target our elderly population.

Scams come in many different forms:

phone calls, emails, counterfeit checks and fake sweepstakes. Here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim of these scams by the Internet, phone and mail.

Internet:

Do not open emails from unknown sources

Do not click on links for websites you are not familiar with

Never send personal information through email or using the Internet

Protect your computer with a strong password

Phone:

If someone calls your home requesting your information, ask them for a clear explanation of their intent

DO NOT give your information to a caller you don't know

Never participate in contests that require you to pay for winnings

Ask telemarketers to remove your name from their call list

Mail:

Be cautious of mail requesting you to cash a check and send money somewhere

Verify the source of any "debt collector" of unknown debts or debts of loved ones

File important documents in a safe place and shred old documents containing person-

al information

If you feel that you are being solicited in a scam or if you become a victim of one, please call us to report it. It's important that we know these scams are going on and how criminals are targeting others so we can do our best to prevent it from happening to others.

To report a crime, please call the Marion County Public Safety Communications Center's non-emergency line at 352-732-9111. In the event of an emergency, always call 911.

American Farmers Lead Way In Feeding And Caring For The World

(NAPSI)—Two of the most popular terms used today to describe food produc-

tion in the United States are "stewardship" and "sustainability." However, these terms are more than buzzwords. They're two important goals of the nearly 2.2 million hard-working U.S. farmers and ranchers who strive daily to help feed and clothe nearly 7.4 billion people worldwide through the careful, sustainable use of water, land, air and other resources.

In fact, since our early history, America's farmers and ranchers have been the original caretakers of the land. While their knowledge and use of technology have evolved greatly in the last century, their dedication remains the same. Farmers' and ranchers' prudent use of soil, water, fertilizers, seeds and other inputs not only helps ensure a bountiful harvest, but sustains those resources for generations to come.

Thanks to innovations in genetics, GPS and precision equipment and other agronomic technologies, farmers today can more accurately and efficiently plant, fertilize, cultivate and harvest crops and raise their livestock. The use of soil sensors and aerial imaging of fields helps farmers time and place inputs when and where plants need them most.

As a result of these productivity-enhancing technologies, one farmer today can feed 155 other people while using 2 percent fewer inputs, all with less impact on the environment.

Each spring, National Ag Day recognizes the accomplishments of America's food producers. This year on March 15, consumers across the country can celebrate the role that farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses play in feeding the world and nurturing a healthy, thriving planet.

According to the Agriculture Council of America, the national organization charged with promoting National Ag Day, this year's theme is Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet. This theme demonstrates the tremendous responsibility and commitment that farmers and ranchers share in protecting the global environment as an important part of their livelihoods.

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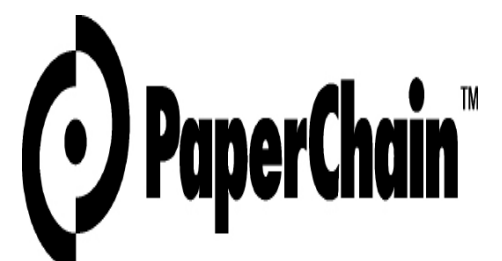


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■=Tom Loury

PUBLISHER’S NOTES



Trump continues to baffle experts by his statements and growth in the polls. He said George W was not so great, if he was on the ball 9-11 would not have happened. Currently he is taking on the Pope.

Who next?
Supreme Court nominee - whoever it may be. Here is some history:
Look up the Robert Bork debacle. He was NOT seated on the supreme court. The fight was ferocious.
An email said in 1960, democrats passed

a law: no one seated on the supreme court during last year of a term. Political opponents wanted to halt Eisenhower nominees.
As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Joe Biden presided over Bork’s hearing. Biden stated his opposition to Bork soon after the nomination, reversing an approval in an interview of a hypothetical Bork nomination he had made the previous year and angering conservatives who thought he could not conduct the hearings dispassionately. At the close of the hearings, Biden won praise for conducting the proceedings fairly and with good humor and courage, as his 1988 presidential campaign collapsed in the middle of the hearings. Rejecting some of the arguments that other Bork opponents were making, Biden framed his discussion

around the belief that the Constitution provides rights to liberty and privacy that extend beyond those explicitly enumerated in the text, and that Bork’s strong originalism was ideologically incompatible with that view.
MARKETING your products
In looking at the new numbers out labeled what drives new business. The two top performers are referrals and websites. Social media is at 38%. Professional referrals and print Newspaper ads are about 32%. Radio ads are at 16%. TV ads are at 11% and Outdoor Billboard at 10%. Newspapers are the medium of choice of people who matter in many communities: These people own businesses, own homes, pay taxes, vote and have children in school. Those are the people advertisers most want to reach. You can’t know too much about those people. The more you know, the better you’ll be at selling them.
Who reads our newspapers?
We have good readership, business people, Including attorneys, politicians, law enforcement, etc. We have been endorsed

by many readers for the job we do because there are no boundaries for us. We go where the story takes us.
The advertisers are buying our readership, it is the most important asset we have. If you put out 16,000 products and only ten read it that’s not good. If you put out 8,000 newspaper and a couple thousand of readers read it, that’s better than the above. Our feedback says we are being read.
One of the methods of selling advertising is to research and produce charts. If we run an ad and it does not get the results we want, the first thing we do is change the verbiage and analyze what the copy says. A sales person goes in the first time and finds out how they can help the customer gain new business. I say new business because if the merchant treats their first time buyer right the customer will come back without prompting. That’s what makes new business so important for growth.
I believe in my newspaper because we have a goal that every person has the right to see their opinion in print.



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Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for April
Seniors Voice & Ocala Downtown
12am, March 23rd
Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, March 30th

Seniors Voice of Ocala

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OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



One of the strategies that we have found at the CEP to help us best deliver assistance and services to segments of our business community is through councils. The concept supports the idea that

we can best serve the needs of our business community by bringing together groups of like-minded business professionals based on industry or occupation.

Non-Profit Business Council

The standard bearer for this approach at the CEP is the Non-Profit Business Council which has been active for several years now focusing on the needs and opportunities of our non-profits. One of the driving ideas behind the NPBC is the recognition that a non-profit must use business principles if they want to remain impactful. The NPBC works to provide industry specific trainings for our non-profits as well as networking opportunities for our leaders in this important segment of our community. Additionally, it is a chance for non-profits to share ideas and dates for upcoming events to avoid duplication. The NPBC also sponsors the Youth in Philanthropy Initiative which teaches mid-

dle school students about the importance of philanthropy.

Network Marketing Council

One of the fastest growing business segments in the country is network marketing. An often misunderstood and unfairly stigmatized industry, this segment does represent both a legitimate and quickly growing business category. The Network Marketing Council (NMC) was created to provide our partners involved in the MLM and Network Marketing industry an opportunity to network with like-minded professionals, learn best practices, provide leadership and business skills development opportunities and discover new avenues for partnership. The NMC meets the 4th Thursday of each month at noon at the CEP office. While most meetings are planned for an hour, it is not unusual to find the members still networking an hour after the meeting officially has ended!

Ocala IT Pros

The CEP team discussed with various partners their interest in starting a technology council or some forum to bring together IT talent in the community. However, we struggled to find a champion to help get the group started. In fact, one even doubted there was any real interest in the community. However, the industry corrected this misconception rather resoundingly.

The Ocala IT Pros was started in 2014 when a couple of local tech professionals lead by database developer Andrew Comeau put a notice on Meetup.com. The goal was to create a forum for networking, create a link between the IT and business communities, and form a hub for other, more focused technology groups in the surrounding area. Soon 10 then 20 and then 50 IT pros were meeting on a regular basis. The group has also become a hub for other spin-off groups focused on specific technologies. Two such spin-offs are Ocala Ruby, a Ruby on Rails programming group, and Ocala Online Marketing Workshop. Today, the Ocala IT Pros is housed under the umbrella of the CEP.

The group meets twice a month on every other Wednesday. One meeting takes place at a local restaurant to talk tech and the other occurs at the CEP's Power Plant Business Incubator. Today the group numbers more than 100 members. The CEP Director of Business Creation, Ryan Lilly, serves as the group's staff liaison and stands ready to assist the growing segment of our economy.

Governor Scott Applauds U.S. Army Corps

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to Governor Scott's request to raise water levels in the L-29 canal in order to move water south through Shark River Slough to ease the effects of flooding in the Everglades.

Governor Rick Scott said, "I applaud the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' quick action to move water south through the Shark River Slough to ease flooding in the Everglades. This action will help prevent a die off of wildlife whose habitat is currently flooded and eventually relieve pressure from discharges to the Estuaries. I want to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for staying in constant communication with the State of Florida and we will remain in contact as we continue taking action to protect our environment and ease areas of prolonged flooding."

On Thursday, Governor Scott asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to take immediate action to relieve the flooding of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas and the releases of water from Lake Okeechobee to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuaries.



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SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

COMING EVENTS FOR MARCH, 2016

INCOME TAX HELP

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays continuing thru April 18th, 2016

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Cost: FREE

Where: 8th Avenue Adult Recreation Center, 830 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala

What: AARP Tax Help is available on these days. Please bring all your necessary documents including Social Security Card, W-2 Forms, 1099 Forms, last year's taxes, driver's license and some form of ID.

PARADE OF SENIOR SERVICES

When: Friday, March 25, 2016

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

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost: FREE

What: Over 60 government, non-profit and public service agencies will be represented to provide literature, answer questions and offer services to senior citizens of Marion County. Tax Aid, Health Care, Recreation, City, County, State and Federal Government Services, Social Services and much more! For more information about this event, please call Diane at 352-401-3916.

SENIOR TRIP: EARLY BIRD DINNER THEATRE

When: Thursday, March 31, 2016

Where: Clearwater, Florida

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

Cost: \$62.00 per person (includes transportation, meal & admission)

What: Allen and Michelle have been living together for 18 months. It is the first real relationship for both of them. Michelle thinks they should marry; Allen isn't sure. His hesitancy drives her home to her parents for advice. Michelle's father isn't aware that it is Allen's mother he has been seeing for the last 6 months and would like to get rid of, nor does Michelle's mother know that Allen's father she has spent the night with and would like to see more of. The pieces fall uproariously into place when the parents decide to meet the young lovers over dinner to lend their maturity and experience for the benefit of their children's relationship. It's suddenly everyone for himself in this wild, rollicking look at love and romance. Pre-registration is required. For more information call Grace at 629-8357.

NEW PROGRAM

PICKLEBALL

When: Mondays and Thursdays (February thru May 5th)

Where: E.D. Croskey Recreation Center

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Cost: FREE

What: Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis,

and table tennis. Two, three, or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. The sport shares features of other racquet sports, the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. If you love to play pickleball or want to learn, come join us! Bring your own paddle or we will provide equipment. For more information, please call 401-3916.

MOVIES FOR MARCH, 2016

8TH AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH & 9TH, 2016 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON – THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH & 11TH, 2016 AT 1:00 PM

“DESERT DANCER” STARRING: NAZANIN BONIADI, FREIDA PINTO,

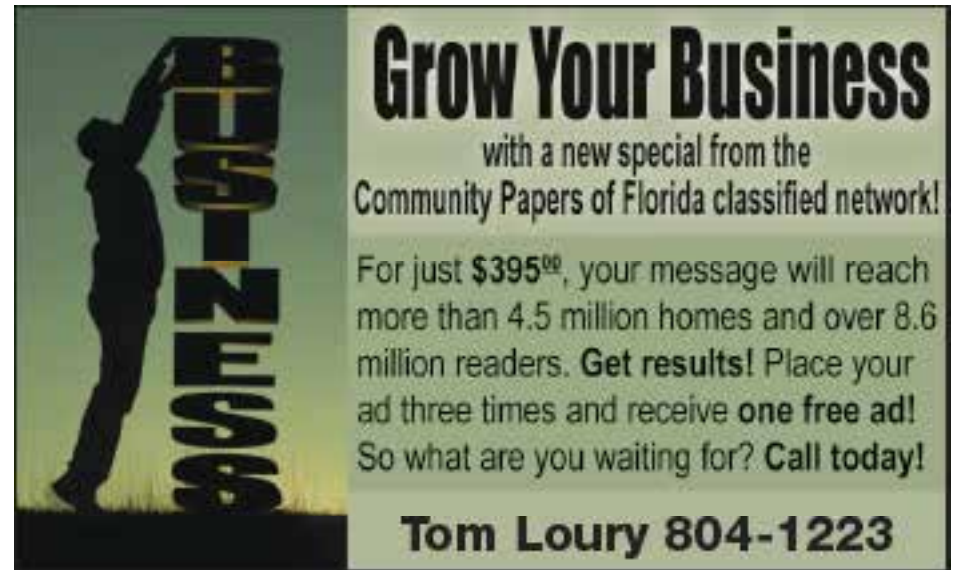
REECE RITCHIE, TOM CULLEN AND SIMON KASSIANIDES

During the politically charged climate of the 2009 protests in Iran, when many cultural freedoms are threatened, Afshin and some friends risk their lives and form and underground dance company. Through banned online videos, they learn from timeless legends who cross all cultural divides, including Michael Jackson, Gene Kelly and Rudolf Nureyev. Their exploration of music, dance and a universal respect for artistic expression untouchable by political strife, enables them to discover a freedom from the harsh realities of their surroundings. RATED PG 13

8th AVENUE – TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND & 23RD, 2016 AT 1:30 PM

BARBARA G. WASHINGTON –

(Continued on Page 8)



■ ONE PERSON'S OPINION ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are you going to vote?
Who are you going to vote for?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO VOTE FOR? Is More Important.

Are you familiar with issues, and which candidate supports each issue?

Are you a me voter, or an us voter?

Is one issue affecting you, swaying your vote, or, are major issues affecting the nation, yeah, even the planet, the basis for your choice?

Do you know the history of issues facing us? Socialism, {repetitious failures} capitalism, {mismanagement} financial systems, {hedge funds, derivatives, legal plunder, etc}. Please research them before you vote?

Corruption, greed, privilege at the top, and greed, indolence, entitledness at the bottom, and the middle class caught in welfare slavery, supporting these two greedy groups.

My vote? Looking for a NON politician. A candidate not indebted to donors, or bureaucrats Their stand on AMERICAN Culture, not foreign cultures. I like our Constitutional government. Polititions have distorted our values, and culture using LEGAL PLUNDER {see: The Law by Bastiat}

Our founding fathers knew what scoundrels humans can be. They thought they had given us the means to checkmate this behavior,

But alas, the scoundrels have found ways to do an end run around all the safe guards.

Do you know you have been slithered into welfare slavery, supporting both the top and the bottom? Feel the Squeeze?

FAIR!!!, is the name of the game. Where can it be found?

THINK, and study before you vote, it is not a game. It is serious business. But please vote?

D.I.L.

New Comfort For Older Homes

(NAPSI)—The charm of an older home is an attractive selling feature. Less appealing are the inefficiencies of an older heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system or the absence of a cooling system. Updating to an HVAC system improves comfort and often makes good economic sense, but it requires careful planning. Asking the right questions and enlisting the help of a qualified HVAC contractor can make it possible to create a comfortable, efficient environment without spoiling the character of these classic structures.

Step 1: Determine how much equipment you need

Ask your HVAC contractor to conduct a "Manual J" load calculation to determine your home's unique heating and cooling needs. This calculation analyzes everything that affects air temperature in your home—things like windows, orientation to the sun, and duct leakage. Using this calculation, your contractor can recommend the right-size equipment for your home.

Step 2: Determine the location of the unit and inspect ductwork

Ask your contractor where the new equipment will be located and whether your ductwork is properly sealed, insulated and sized for the equipment. Dust and debris in the ductwork can reduce the HVAC system's efficiency and damage its components, so have the ductwork inspected before shopping for a new system.

Your contractor should also inspect the home's electrical system to be sure it provides enough power to handle a new, upgraded HVAC system.

Step 3: Discuss your efficiency and "stage" options

Whether shopping for a furnace, air conditioner or heat pump, always check the efficiency of the unit you are considering. The efficiency of a fuel-burning furnace is expressed as the annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE). Air-conditioning systems are rated according to their seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) and heat pump efficiency is expressed as the unit's heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF). Generally speaking, a higher AFUE, SEER or HSPF means increased efficiency and reduced operating expenses.

If you're in the market for a new furnace, choose from a single-stage, two-stage or modulating furnace. Single-stage furnaces operate at full capacity all the time. Two-stage furnaces have two separate heating settings—a lower setting that is used when the furnace turns on and runs during milder winter days and a higher stage for colder conditions. Modulating furnaces, such as the York® Affinity™ Series gas furnaces, can run at any speed within a set range, allowing them to choose the precise speed that's most efficient for the given heating demand and offering the most energy-efficient heating solution.

Also, consider installing a programmable thermostat to control your new HVAC system. These thermostats offer accurate, reliable, energy-saving performance, and in some cases they include Wi-Fi® support to work with mobile devices to easily program a system remotely.

Step 4: Understand your warranty

Finally, be sure to check the warranty coverage offered by the equipment manufacturer. Your contractor should be very clear about what's covered. Also, ask whether an extended warranty is available and what advantages it offers.



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Habitat for Humanity of Ocala present to Ocala Business Leaders Feb 17, 2016 Left to right: Elizabeth Chryst, (Joe Martone), Joanne Black, Tori Arens

SENIOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Continued from Page 6)

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH & 25TH, 2016 ST 1:00 PM

“SAN ANDREAS” STARRING: DWAYNE JOHNSON, CARLA GUGINO, ALEXANDRA DADDARIO, IOAN GRUFFUDD AND ARCHIE PANJABI

After the infamous San Andreas Fault gives, triggering a magnitude 9-plus earthquake in California, a search and rescue helicopter pilot and his estranged wife make their way together from Los Angeles to San

Francisco to save their only daughter. But their treacherous journey north is only the beginning. And when they think the worst may be over it is just getting started. Rated PG 13

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.

Pamper Your Ride

(NAPSI)—Whether your car is a classic or brand new, keeping it clean and main-

tained will give you great pride and impress those around you.

• After all, an automobile is one of the biggest investments you can make, yet as soon as you drive it off the lot, it starts depreciating. A little care, however, can extend your car's life, beauty and value.

To help, there's a new Automotive Appearance Care Line from 303 Products that provides a variety of ways to improve your car inside and out, including:

• Superior protection from the harmful effects of UV rays. The Protectant brightens all vinyl, rubber and plastic to keep it looking new, longer; helps prevent fading and cracking; repels dust, lint and staining; and dries with a non-greasy finish. For added convenience, it also comes in a wipe.

• To keep plastic trim looking like new, the Trim Restorer & Protectant also helps restore the original luster of the plastic trim, provides UV protection, and repels dirt, dust and grime.

• The Speed Detailer instantly shines and protects clear coat, fiberglass, plastic, chrome and glass. It blocks the sun's harmful rays, helps protect against fading and keeps the vehicle looking clean between washes.

• For a glossy showroom shine, grab the Quick Wax, which gently cleans and protects paint. You'll get a longer-lasting shine and UV protection that lasts up to 30 days, helping to prevent color fading. It contains carnauba wax and is 100 percent silicone free.

• If you have a convertible top, the Tonneau Cover & Convertible Top Cleaner is great to help brighten both hard and soft surfaces and remove tough stains...and it rinses residue free.

• For leather, there's the three-in-one complete Leather care solution that cleans, conditions and protects.

It's safe on all finished leather and vinyl and helps prevent fading and cracking; reduces dust, lint and staining; and is a rinsefree formula—just spray it on and wipe it off.

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Marion County Genealogical Society Meeting

The Marion County Genealogical Society will meet on Thur March 17 at 2 PM. A brief business meeting will be followed by our program, "Family Tree Maker has been Rescued -- Do you Still Want to Change

Your Software?" presented by Judy Wright.

For further information, contact Judy Wright at (352) 897-0840, MarionGenealogy@gmail.com, or MarionGenealogy.tripod.com.



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On December 4, 2015, Corporal Keith McQuaig from MCSO's Fugitive Apprehension Unit made contact with wanted subject, Alfred L. Gordon (DOB: 08/16/91), at 815 South Pine Avenue in reference to Gordon's outstanding Felony V.O.P warrant. Gordon ran from Corporal McQuaig and a foot pursuit began. Gordon ran across Pine Avenue and then ran into a local business to hide from law enforcement.

While this foot pursuit was in progress, a citizen bystander, Lance Farmer, saw the events unfolding and drove by to see what was going on. Suspect Gordon jumped in to

Farmer's truck and asked Farmer to drive him away from Corporal McQuaig. INSTEAD, Farmer drove Gordon BACK to Corporal McQuaig's position and Gordon was successfully taken into custody!!

On Friday, February 12th, Sheriff Chris Blair and Corporal McQuaig honored Farmer with an Eagle Eye award for his quick thinking and brave actions in assisting law enforcement during this apprehension. Thank you for everything you did that day to help us!! We are extremely thankful for your noble actions!!

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March in the Park

Spring is coming to Rainbow Springs State Park, the Historic Gardens are

Coming to life. In the mid '60's a re-vamping of the now historic tourist attraction brought in 60,000 Azalia plants among other things. Those Azalias are now nearing full bloom. The weather has been mild, it's a perfect time for a stroll through the park or even a swim.

The Ranger's Choice Program will continue through March and April, held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. Join a Ranger for a fun, interesting and educational program on a variety of historic, cultural and natural re-

source related topics. Free with regular \$ 2.00 park admission. Topic, location and time will be announced on FloridaStateParks.org or by calling 352-465-8555.

Guided Bird Walk for March will be on the 26th starting in the Headsprings Entrance Parking lot at 8:00 am. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars or other birding tools, good shoes and water. A few binoculars are available for use. \$2.00 regular entrance fee. No RSVP required. Expect to be walking, standing, and exposed to the outdoors and uneven, sloping walkways for approximately 1.5 hours.

Check out Art in the Park, Saturday, March 12th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and

Sunday, March 13th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come to the park to enjoy the wonderful display of paintings and other art forms by the Florida Artists Gallery and the Ocala Art Group. Watch the Artists at work and take advantage of the opportunity to look for items to purchase for yourself or for gifts. Regular park admission applies. A portion of all art sales will go to the Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park to continue maintaining the gardens, the Butterfly Garden, the education program and Accessibility for All.

In addition to the Mobi –mat, a plastic rug like material that has been laid to make the pavilions more accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, FORS have paid for more to be laid along the drive to the Felburn pavillion where many of our events are held. It makes a much smoother, safer surface for rolling and for walking.

Other activities for March include a Guided Butterfly Walk on the 12th at 9:30 am, hosted by the volunteers who manage the garden, and on March 17th Ranger's Choice program, All About Bats at 10:00 am at the Felburn pavilion.

On Saturday, April 2nd from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm the Marion County UF/IFAS Extension and the Southwest Florida Water Management System will sponsor Go Springs and Get Wet, a fun day of educational presentations about Florida's springs and caves, guided hiking and kayaking tour, a clean-up activity and more. Registration is \$10.00 which includes refreshments and lunch, and park entrance fee. Children 12 ears of age and younger are free and separate activities will be provided for them. You must bring your own kayak or rent one at the park for the guided tour. To register call UF IFAS Marion County at 352 – 671 - 8400 to reserve your spot or register on line at <http://gosprings.eventbrite.com> where you will also find a schedule.

Rainbow Springs State Park is located at 19158 S W 81st Place Road, Dunnellon. For more information visit FloridaStateParks.org or call 352 - 465 – 8555.



The 2016 Parade of Senior Services will be held Friday, March 25, 2016 at CCP's Ewers Century Center from 10am-3pm.

This event has been in existence for 33 years and continues to be a favorite among the senior citizens of our community.

The Parade is a show of non-profit agencies that provide a variety of services from social, health, education, and more to the senior citizens of Ocala, Marion County and surrounding areas.

Many attend this yearly show to obtain information on services they are seeking or may be in the future.

Many for-profit agencies have desired to be a part of the show because of its uniqueness. As a result, a sponsorship program was developed to allow for-profit organizations to participate through financial support.

This financial support is used solely for expenditures of this event, such as advertising, printing, mailings, facility rental, etc.

Since the Parade is for non-profit agencies who provide free or low cost services to seniors,

only twenty-five (25) for-profit agencies are given the opportunity to participate through a sponsorship.

For information call 401-3916 or email at: [HYPERLINK "mailto:dleaf@ocalafl.org" \t "_blank" dleaf@ocalafl.org](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:dleaf@ocalafl.org).

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Sold what they advertised.....	36%
Sold or had many calls.....	73%
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